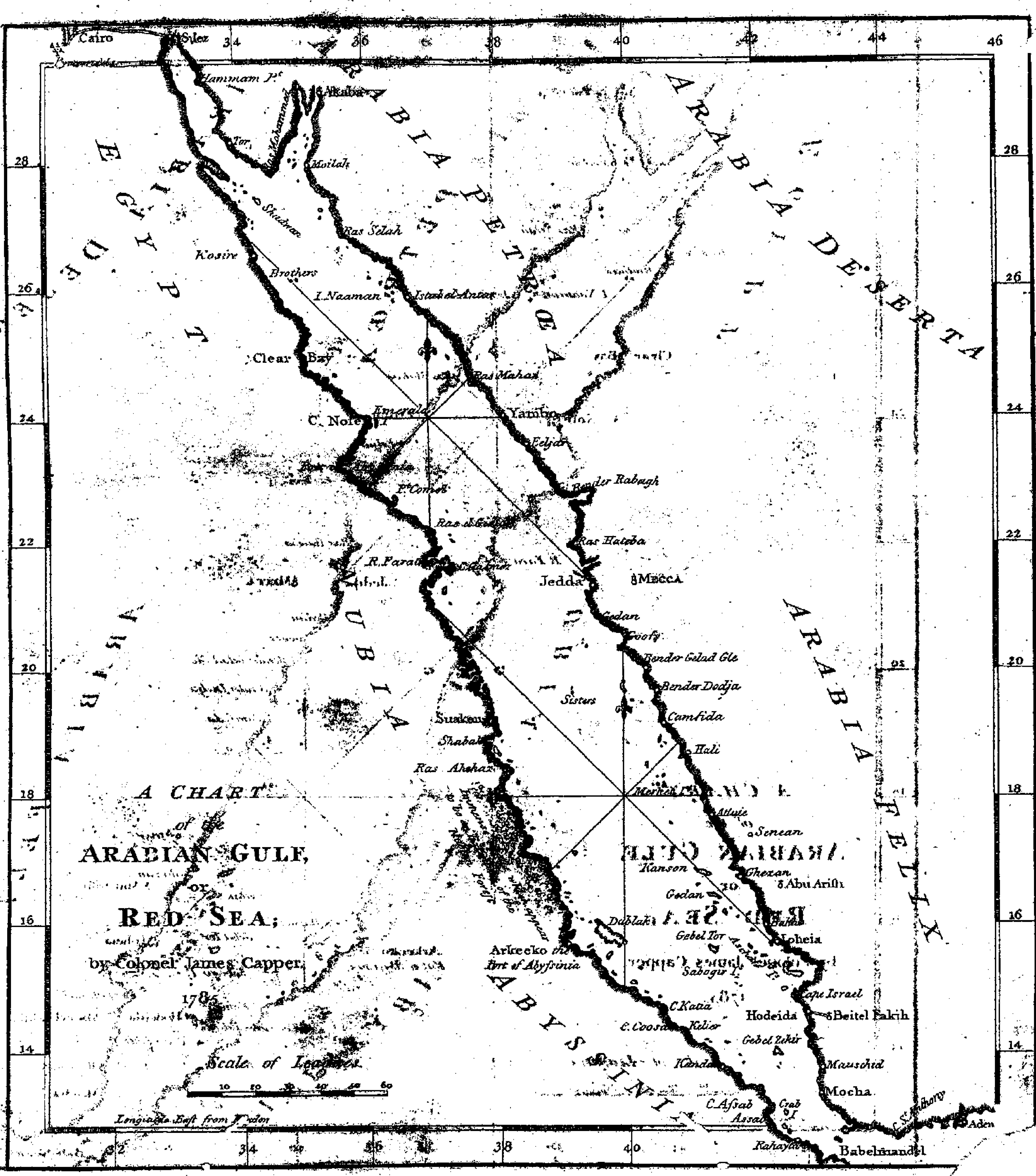
A CHART of the ARABIAN GULF, or RED SEA; by Colonel James Capper. 1785
Scale of Leagues
Longitude East from London
EGYPT
NUBIA
ABYSSINIA
ARABIA PETRÆA
ARABIA DESERTA
ARABIA FELIX
Cairo
Suez
Hammam Pt
Tor
Akaba
Moilah
Shadwan
Ras Selah
Kosire
Brothers
I. Naaman
Clear Bay
Ras Mahax
C. Nose
Yambo
Emerald I.
Feljar
P. Comol
Bender Rabagh
Ras Hateba
R. Farat
Jedda
MECCA
Gedan
Bender Gelad Gle
Bender Dodja
Sisters
Suakem
Shabak
Camfida
Hali
Ras Ahehaz
Senean
Kanson
Ghezan
Abu Arish
Gedan
Dublak
Gebel Tor
Loheia
Arkeeko the Port of Abyssinia
Sabogir I.
Cape Israel
C. Katia
Hodeida
Beitel Fakih
C. Coosam
Kilier
Gebel Zekir
Kanda
Mauschid
Mocha
C. Assab
Assab
Crab I.
Aden
Rahayta
Babelmandel
34
36
38
40
42
44
46
28
26
24
22
20
18
16
14

Wesleyan Coll: 1813
13,803. H.20 6.
No-12597

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PASSAGE TO INDIA,

THROUGH EGYPT.

DATA ENTERED

ALSO

By VIENNA through CONSTANTINOPLE

TO

ALEPPO,

STOCK VERIFIED 1995

AND FROM THENCE

By BAGDAD, and directly across the GREAT DESERT, to

BASSORA.

WITH

Occasional REMARKS on the adjacent Countries,

An ACCOUNT of the different Stages,

And SKETCHES of the several Routes on four Copper Plates.

By JAMES CAPPER, Esq;

> HÆC DUM INCIPIAS, GRAVIA SUNT,
> DUMQUE IGNORES: UBI COGNORIS, FACILIA.
>
> TERENCE.

The Third Edition, with Alterations and Additions.

LONDON:

Printed for W. FADEN, Geographer to the KING, *Charing Cross*
J. ROBSON, in *New Bond Street*; and R. SEWELL, in *Cornhill*.

MDCCLXXXV.

PRETENSION PUBLIC LIBRARY

TO

EDWARD COTSFORD, Esq; M. P.

THIS WORK IS INSCRIBED,

AS A SMALL TRIBUTE

OF

RESPECT AND ESTEEM,

BY

HIS SINCERE FRIEND,

AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

JAMES CAPPER.

New Bond Street,
March 1st, 1785.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The principal inducement with the Author for publishing the first edition of this work, he does not scruple to acknowledge was to submit to Government, The East-India Company, and The Public, his reasons for wishing to see revived a dormant plan of sending dispatches to and from India, by the Red Sea: whether his humble remonstrances have been attended to so as to promote the prosecution of this plan may hereafter appear; but besides this desirable object, he had also in view the pleasure of affording useful information to any of his friends, who might have occasion to pass to and from Europe, by the great desert; and in this part of his design he is happy to find, he has in many instances succeeded. The work however in its original form, containing only instructions for passing through France or Italy to the Levant, being limited and imperfect; he has been constantly endeavouring to procure an account of the rout through Vienna, and Constantinople, to Aleppo by land; which to many travellers may be far more agreeable, than going any part of the way by sea.

After

ADVERTISEMENT.

After much enquiry he has at length been favoured with two journals kept by Mr. Baldwin lately agent to the East-India Company at Cairo, who went at different times from Constantinople to Vienna, and also from Constantinople to Aleppo. This gentleman's extensive knowledge of the Oriental languages, and his long residence among the Turks, and Arabs, will no doubt give great weight to his observations on their manners, and customs. The reader will also find in these additional pages, many curious remarks and amusing anecdotes; which serve to characterize the different nations through which Mr. Baldwin passed: and also many useful geographical observations on classic ground, once well inhabited, and resorted to as the seat of the arts and sciences; but which for many ages past, has been little frequented by Europeans. The journals are published nearly in Mr. Baldwin's own words; they were written in haste, to convey information to other travellers, and with no idea of presenting a finished piece of composition to the public*—Ornari, res ipsa negat, contenta doceri.

* When the late rupture broke out with France, this gentleman who was then at Cairo, sent the earliest intelligence of it to India; which enabled the government at Madras to take Pondicherry before reinforcements could arrive from Europe, or the island of Mauritius. A proof at once of his merit, and of the advantage of being able to send dispatches by that rout.

To

ADVERTISEMENT.

To the sketches in the former editions of this work, are added two others, the one, the façade of an ancient monument found in Natolia; the other, a chart of the Red Sea. Much pains have been taken to decipher the inscription still remaining on the building, but in vain; however it is generally supposed to be a mixture of Greek and Phœnician characters. From the necessary size of the Chart of the Red Sea, little more can be expected, than a general knowledge of the relative situation of the places referred to in the work; and those are laid down with all the accuracy possible, in a chart on so small a scale.

PREFACE.

THE indulgent reception the firſt edition of this work met with, makes me lament that I am called upon for a ſecond, before I have leiſure to execute it in a manner more deſerving the attention of the public: but as it is not unlikely many travellers may in the courſe of this year have occaſion to paſs to and from India by land, and be deſirous of profiting by theſe inſtructions,

 I have

I have therefore printed off a few copies with some typographical and other necessary corrections; and having before touched but slightly on the necessity of opening a communication with India by the Red Sea, I shall in this preface enter more minutely into the consideration of that important subject.

Our extensive and valuable possessions in the East Indies have long excited the envy of all the other European nations; nor is it in the least improbable that the maritime powers of France, Spain, and Holland, were prompted to take an active part against us in the late unhappy war, not only with a view to deprive us of our Colonies in the West, but also if possible, to tear from us and divide between them, our possessions in the East: and that even the Emperor, and Russia, Denmark, and Sweden, re-

mained neuter, in hopes ſome time or other of at leaſt ſharing with us the profits of that beneficial trade. The Emperor principally for this purpoſe has already opened the Port of Trieſte, and is endeavouring to revive the long loſt trade of the different cities of the Netherlands. Ruſſia has obtained free egreſs into the Black Sea, in order to divert into its old channel, that branch of it that was carried on by the Gulph of Perſia. Denmark may look forward towards extending their preſent poſſeſſions in that part of the world; and Sweden probably hopes to come in for a ſhare of the ſpoils, and to obtain ſome eſtabliſhment in India by the means of their old allies the French. Had not ſome ideas of this nature prevailed, we ſhould not during the late war have fought againſt ſuch an hoſt of enemies,

nor when threatened with deſtruction have been deſerted by our beſt friends.

The ſame cauſes very likely gave riſe to, and may continue to keep alive the unnatural connection between the court of Verſailles, and the republican party in Holland. The French, when they are rich enough to begin another conteſt with us, are moſt undoubtedly determined to make their attack in the Eaſt; and as they have no port nearer to the Peninſula of India, than the iſland of Mauritius, they have formed a cloſe connection with the Dutch, that they may at once derive aid from the co-operation of their joint forces, and enjoy the benefit of Trincomaley, one of the ſafeſt harbours in the world; and by far the beſt ſituated of any in India, either for covering their own ſettlements in the Bay of Bengal, or for annoying ours.

Nor

Nor is it ſurprizing that the Dutch ſhould readily join in this plan, for in caſe of a rupture with them, we might otherwiſe, by means of a ſuperior fleet, in a very few weeks drive them off the peninſula of India; and alſo obtain poſſeſſion of the iſland of Ceylon, by far the moſt precious jewel belonging to the republic in the Eaſt.

During the late war we frequently in India had no intelligence from England for eight or nine months; nor did we hear of the rupture with Spain until upwards of eleven months after the commencement of hoſtilities in Europe. The Spaniards fortunately for us, being ſlow in their deliberations, and by no means quick in their operations, took no advantage of our want of information: but ſhould a war break out with France and Holland, which for the

reaſons

reaſons I have already mentioned appears to me by no means improbable, we may find all our ſettlements inveſted before we know they are in danger of being attacked, and hear of their being totally loſt, before we are able to relieve them. The means by which we may prevent our enemies anticipating us in ſending advices to India, are in ſome meaſure already pointed out in the introduction to this work; but ſince the publication of the former edition, an occurrence has happened that will greatly facilitate the plan therein propoſed of applying for a revocation of the Turkiſh edict, and which likewiſe ought to induce them to let our couriers paſs unmoleſted through Egypt.

The occurrence to which I allude is, the treaty of peace lately concluded between the Ruſſians and the Turks; by which

which the former have obtained leave in future to paſs the Dardanelles, and to enjoy the free navigation of the Black Sea. After having thus opened the principal door of their empire to their avowed and formidable rivals, they cannot with any propriety or ſhew of reaſon, refuſe us leave at leaſt to ſend pacquet boats up the Red Sea to Suez; in one caſe they give up a ſolid advantage, in the other, nothing is aſked of them that can even indirectly affect either their honour or intereſt. And indeed it may be well worth their conſideration, whether it will not be better for them to throw open all their ports to the other Europeans in general, than by partially ſharing the profits of their trade with the Ruſſians, ſtrengthen and enrich that particular nation, of whoſe encreaſe of wealth and power they have moſt reaſon to be jealous.

The Egyptian government being in a great meaſure independent of the Porte, it may alſo be neceſſary to conſider whether the Beys would approve of our couriers paſſing through their country. The Beys have always encouraged the trade from India to Suez, as much as ſuch a fluctuating and turbulent body of men can be ſuppoſed to encourage any meaſure of public utility. The reaſon of which is obvious; if they by any means could bring the India trade directly to Suez, they would receive all the import and export duties now paid at Gedda, to the amount of near two hundred thouſand pounds per annum; and therefore of courſe they will encourage a meaſure from which they would derive ſuch conſiderable profits. The only oppoſition we ſhould meet with, would come from the Sherreef of Mecca; and even he, as I have before obſerved,

obſerved, will no longer be troubleſome when he finds that we refrain from trading, and ſtrictly confine ourſelves to ſending pacquet boats with letters.

Almost every year ſome event occurs to ſhew the neceſſity of our being able to ſend pacquets by the Red Sea; of which I ſhall mention a very ſtriking inſtance that happened at the concluſion of the laſt war. When the peace was ſigned, the news of it was tranſmitted to India, both acroſs the great deſert, and alſo round the Cape of Good Hope; nevertheleſs it did not reach Madras until the end of the month of June. On the 13th and 25th of that month there were two engagements by land, and about the ſame time one by ſea, in which there fell eighty officers, and upwards of two thouſand men. Now had this paſſage to Suez been open at

that time, the dispatches might have been sent from England to the scene of action in seventy days, and of course have prevented this unnecessary sacrifice of so many gallant men. But this misfortune, great as it was, might have been still worse; for after our fleet bore away for Madras, Monf. de Suffrein proposed to land all his marines and a body of seamen to join the French troops at Cuddalore, and make a desperate attack on our camp. If therefore, the dispatches had by any unforeseen accident been detained only a few days longer, and this plan had been carried into execution, the effusion of blood at least would have been still more considerable: nor is it improbable that with such a superior force they might have cut off our whole army, then lying before Cuddalore, in consequence of which Madras and indeed all our settlements on the

coast

coaſt of Choromandel muſt inevitably have fallen into the hands of Tippo Sahib, who would have paid little or no regard to our peace with the French. The fall of Bombay, and Bengal, with their dependencies, muſt ſoon have followed that of Madras; and the loſs of all our poſſeſſions in the eaſt would no doubt have ſhaken the foundations of public credit at home. When it is conſidered then, that the lives of thouſands, the ſafety of our ſettlements, and almoſt the exiſtence of public credit, depend on our being able to convey intelligence expeditiouſly to India; it will naturally be ſuppoſed, that nothing leſs than the fear of incurring an intolerable expence, can be thought an admiſſible objection againſt forming a regular plan for that purpoſe and inſtantly carrying it into execution: but in fact there is no room for ſuch an objection; for the payment of a mode-

rate

rate poſtage would more than defray the whole of the expence; which at all events in an affair of ſuch magnitude, ought only to be deemed a ſecondary conſideration.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following letter was written in India at the requeſt of Sir Eyre Coote, who once had thoughts of returning to Europe by the way of Suez. It was not at that time intended for publication, however ſince my return to England many of my friends having deſired a copy of it, to avoid the trouble of tranſcribing it myſelf, or the expence of having it tranſcribed by others, I have at laſt reluctantly conſented to its going to the preſs.

This the firſt difficulty ſurmounted, I ſhall now endeavour to make this publication as acceptable as I can, by adding to it an account of the proper time, and moſt agreeable manner, of going from Europe to India by Suez: but firſt, as the Turks have at preſent forbidden any Europeans to paſs that way, it will be proper to explain the cauſe of this prohibition; and to ſhew that their objections againſt travellers going through Egypt may be eaſily removed.

This route to India was once the moſt frequented of any, but after the diſcovery of the paſſage round the Cape of Good Hope, it was neglected by moſt European nations, and almoſt entirely abandoned to the Mahomedans, who carry on the trade of the Red Sea in the following manner.

In the months of November, December, and January, the Mahomedan Pilgrims who are going to Mecca from the coaſts of Barbary, Turkey, Tartary, and Egypt, aſſemble near Suez; ſome of them form a caravan and proceed from thence by land, but thoſe who have merchandize, freight large ſhips from ſix to twelve hundred

hundred tons to carry them and their goods to Gedda, a ſea-port within ſixty miles of Mecca, and about two degrees ſouth of the Tropic. As different winds prevail on the different ſides of the Tropic in the Red Sea, ſhips may come to Gedda from oppoſite points at the ſame ſeaſon of the year; thoſe which come from Suez at the above-mentioned time, benefit by the N. W. wind, while thoſe that come from India and Arabia Felix are aſſiſted by the regular S. W. Monſoon. The pilgrims from the Weſt and North having fulfilled the duties of their religion, and ſettled their worldly concerns; contrive if they can to embark at Gedda, time enough to avail themſelves of the * Khumſeen wind, which blows ſoutherly from the end of March to the middle of May, and conveys them in leſs than a month back again to Suez: the veſſels from India muſt alſo quit Gedda ſo as to be out of the ſtreights of Babelmandel before the end of Auguſt. This meeting of the Mahomedans at Gedda has given riſe to a ſort of annual fair there, which as all goods imported pay a

* KHUMSEEN or Khumſoon, the Arabic term fifty; from this wind blowing during that number of days in the manner above deſcribed.

 regular

regular duty of ten per cent. muſt yield a conſiderable revenue to the government.

The government of Gedda properly ſpeaking is veſted in the Sherreef or high Prieſt of Mecca; but in order when neceſſary to obtain the protection and ſupport of the Turks, he alſo allows the * Grand Signior to ſend a Baſhaw there. The Sherreef appropriates the major part of the revenues to his own uſe, giving only a ſmall ſhare of them to the Baſhaw; but ſometimes he is obliged alſo to tranſmit a few purſes to Conſtantinople, to keep the Grand Signior and his miniſters in good humour.

In the year 1774 the Governor General of Bengal propoſed to ſome merchants in Calcutta to ſend a ſhip to the Red Sea, loaded with a proper aſſortment of goods for the Turkiſh markets; and inſtead of landing them at Gedda, he adviſed their being ſent directly to Suez; by which means he expected to eſtabliſh a new trade equally beneficial to us and to the Turks

* The Grand Signior affects to have imperial authority over the three Arabias, and the coaſt of Barbary, but which in fact is never allowed by the Princes of any of thoſe countries, unleſs when it ſuits their convenience as in this inſtance.

in

in general, and alſo to open a new channel for tranſmitting intelligence backwards and forwards, between India and Europe. It is not neceſſary in this place to conſider the merits of the commercial part of this plan, ſuffice it to ſay, that the Sherreef of Mecca very ſoon took the alarm, and uſed all his influence both ſpiritual and temporal to put a ſtop to its continuance. In his negociation at the Porte in this buſineſs, he was zealouſly aſſiſted alſo by a large body of Turkiſh merchants, who were apprehenſive of ſuffering by the prices of India goods being lowered in their markets, which muſt have totally put an end to the old eſtabliſhed trade of Baſſora and Aleppo. By ſuch a weighty concurrence of intereſt an edict was obtained from the Grand Signior, which ſtripped of its official tautology, and oriental hyperbole, contains no more than what follows.

" HISTORIANS inform us, that the Chriſ-
" tians, an enterprizing and artful race, have
" from the earlieſt times conſtantly made uſe of
" deceit and violence to effect their ambitious
" purpoſes. Under the diſguiſe of merchants
" they formerly introduced themſelves into
" Damaſcus and Jeruſalem; in the ſame man-

" ner

" ner they have ſince obtained a footing in
" Hindoſtan, where the Engliſh have reduced
" the inhabitants to ſlavery; ſo now likewiſe
" encouraged by the Beys, the ſame people have
" lately attempted to inſinuate themſelves into
" Egypt, with a view no doubt as ſoon as they
" have made maps of the country, and taken
" plans of the fortifications, to attempt the
" conqueſt of it.

" IN order to counteract theſe their danger-
" ous deſigns, on firſt hearing of their proceed-
" ings, we enjoined their Ambaſſador to write
" to his court deſiring their veſſels might not
" be allowed to frequent the port of Suez;
" which requiſition having been fully complied
" with, if any of their veſſels preſume here-
" after to anchor there, the cargo ſhall be con-
" fiſcated, and all perſons on board be impri-
" ſoned, until our further pleaſure be known."

IF it were neceſſary, the Chriſtians might very eaſily vindicate themſelves from the aſperſions contained in this edict, and with great truth and juſtice recriminate upon the Mahomedans; and indeed had not the Grand Signior been ſtrangely miſinformed concerning the pro-

ceedings

ceedings of both parties in India, he would hardly have ventured to make a comparison between them.

They are both equally strangers in that Country. The Mahomedans unprovoked by the Hindoos invaded and took possession of their country; whereas the English introduced themselves as merchants, and carried on a trade very profitable to the natives for upwards of an hundred years, without ever shewing the least hostile disposition against either the peaceable Hindoos, or the Mahomedan usurpers. But after Surage ul Dowla had exercised the most wanton cruelty on the Company's servants, by causing a number of them to be suffocated in the black hole of Calcutta; to revenge their deaths, and to preserve our commercial privileges which we held by grant from the Court of Delhi, we first took up arms in Bengal: nor can the most rigid moralist and much less the Grand Signior find any cause to censure our conduct in thus vindicating the honour and interest of our country*. It is true that Hindostan has been

* The different conduct of the Christians and Mahomedans in India will appear in a more striking point of view from the relation

been more impoverished under our government in the short space of thirty years, than it was under that of the Moguls, in the course of three or four centuries; from whence people hastily conclude, that the Hindoos have been more oppressed by us, than they were by their former conquerors. This opinion however is by no means well founded: it must be remem-

relation of an anecdote of Oriental history, which accidentally came to the knowledge of the author.

"Surage ul Dowla was the grandson of the great Alyverdi Khan, who had a favourite wife, a woman of extraordinary abilities and great virtue. When Alyverdi was dying, knowing the flighty and tyrannical disposition of his grandson, whom he intended for his successor, he advised him on all important occasions after his death to consult the old queen, whose discernment would enable her to foresee dangers imperceptible to an impetuous and inexperienced youth like him.

When Surage ul Dowla instigated by avarice intended to attack Calcutta, he consulted this oracle, who advised him against it in the following prophetic words. "The English are a peaceable and industrious people; like bees, if properly encouraged and protected, they will bring you honey, but beware of disturbing the hive! you may perhaps destroy a few of them, but in the end believe me, they will sting you to death." A prediction which was soon after verified. From this well-known fact it appears that we were considered as pacifically inclined, and by no means suspected of a disposition to enslave the natives or quarrel with the Mahomedans; until compelled to take up arms to avoid being enslaved ourselves."

bered

b... that the Mahomedan invaders ſettled in Hindoſtan, and conſequently the money their Viceroys exacted from the Inhabitants of courſe returned again into general circulation; and during that time alſo the European nations imported annually large ſums in ſpecie. But ſince we acquired territorial poſſeſſions, not only ourſelves but alſo almoſt all other maritime powers of Europe, have traded with the ſpecie of India, which having been for many years paſt thus regularly drained, without receiving its uſual ſupplies, is now almoſt entirely exhauſted. Much more might be urged in our favour againſt the charges exhibited againſt us by the Grand Signior; but it being foreign to the ſubject of this work, I ſhall content myſelf with obſerving, that his majeſty evidently declares in his edict the ſentiments of others and not his own; for did he really think as unfavourably of us as he affects to do in order to juſtify his conduct, he would not only exclude us from the port of Suez, but alſo compel us to leave every other part of his dominions; whereas on the contrary it is well-known, that he allows us to have factories at Conſtantinople, Smyrna, Aleppo, and many other places in Turky, without ſhewing the leaſt apprehenſion of our ſeizing on

his cities, or enſlaving his people. We may therefore reaſonably conſider the Sherreef of Mecca, as the principal author of this ſcurrilous libel, who hoped thereby to keep the trade of the Red Sea in its old channel.

When our government thought proper, to comply with the requiſition of the Porte concerning the trade to Suez, it is much to be lamented, that our miniſter at Conſtantinople, was not inſtructed to ſtipulate for ſome delay in iſſuing the edict, ſo that a proper time might be allowed for ſending a copy of it to India; for want of this precaution, ſome merchants going in the mean time from Suez to Cairo, were plundered and murdered by a body of Arabs. Suppoſing even for a moment, what was not the caſe, that the merchants had been informed of the prohibition; ſtill they were not puniſhed in a regular manner, nor even according to the tenor of the firmaun, which decrees only a confiſcation of their property, and an impriſonment of their perſons: whereas theſe unfortunate men were ſome of them cut to pieces, and others left to periſh of hunger and thirſt on the Deſert; a mode of puniſhment which plainly ſhews, that the maſſacre was made by a banditti

ditti ſet on by a ruffian like themſelves; the Turkiſh government, deſpotic as it is, would have proceeded with more regularity, and leſs cruelty. But here again we may trace the hand of the Sherreef of Mecca, who, no doubt, expected by an act of uncommon violence and barbarity, to deter every other Chriſtian from paſſing that way; and alſo at once to gratify his avarice and reſentment, by ſeizing on ſuch a valuable booty.

But the Grand Signior having iſſued this firmaun, forbidding our ſhips to come to Suez, and expreſſed himſelf in it, in ſuch very ſtrong terms: it may perhaps be deemed expedient to abandon the trade, rather than involve ourſelves in a diſpute with him; but ſurely no perſon will think, that we ought alſo to give up the right of ſending pacquets that way, to which neither the Grand Signior, nor even the Sherreef of Mecca himſelf, can offer the ſmalleſt reaſonable objection.

Every man acquainted with India muſt know, that it is of the higheſt importance to individuals, to the company, and to the nation at large, to have this channel of communication

opened again. During the latter part of the late war, after the firmaun was iſſued, the French regularly tranſmitted advices by Suez, to and from India, by which means they frequently anticipated us in intelligence, and of courſe counteracted our operations. It is not neceſſary to particularize every inſtance, but it will doubtleſs be well remembered, that the news of the unfortunate defeat of Colonel Baillie came to England through France, where it was known in February; time enough for them to ſend out reinforcements to Hyder Ally, before the beſt ſeaſon for paſſing the Cape of Good Hope was elapſed: whilſt we who were ignorant of that diſaſter until April, could not ſend out any ſhips before the return of the enſuing ſeaſon, near ſix months afterwards.

SINCE then, nothing leſs than the exiſtence of our ſettlements in India, may ſome time or other depend upon our poſſeſſing a right of paſſing unmoleſted through Egypt; and the prohibitory firmaun was only intended to prevent the trade of Gedda from being transferred to Suez; ſurely no time ſhould be loſt in demanding another firmaun explanatory of the firſt, and declaring that no perſons dependent

on,

on, or connected with the Turkish government, shall impede or molest any British subject in passing up the Red Sea, or through Egypt, provided they have nothing but papers and such baggage only as travellers may be supposed to have occasion for on such a journey. The Sherreef of Mecca may probably at first oppose our enjoying this privilege, in which also it is likely he will be secretly supported by the French*; but can it be thought prudent in us to submit to the controul of the one, or to be dupes of the secret machinations of the other, especially when consistently with justice, we can easily get the better of both.

After shewing from what cause, the opposition to our having a free passage this way to India arose, and exposing the futility of the charges contained in the edict: I shall next consider what is the best time for setting out from England.

* It is not intended to insinuate that the French ever did, or ever would co-operate with the Sherreef in employing assassins; but as our rivals in politics, it is very natural to suppose they will endeavour to prevail on the Grand Signior, not to revoke his present firmaun, the existence of which is so disgraceful and detrimental to us,

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The ſeaſon for undertaking this journey commences early in April, and ends early in June; during which time a perſon accuſtomed to travel, will eaſily arrive at Alexandria from London in about a month, that is ſuppoſing he has previouſly determined what route to purſue to the Mediterranean; and alſo has cauſed a veſſel to be prepared for him on his arrival at the place where he intends to embark. The northerly and weſterly winds prevail in the Mediterranean in May, June and July; and therefore in theſe months, the paſſage from Marſeilles, Leghorn, or Venice to Alexandria, in a tolerable good ſailing veſſel ſeldom exceeds eighteen days, and is often performed in ten or twelve; from Alexandria he will eaſily get to Suez in eight days; and from thence to Anjengo is a voyage of twenty-five days; to Bombay twenty-eight; to Madras thirty-five; and to Bengal forty; making the journey from England to India, at the moſt ſeventy-eight days, at the leaſt fifty-nine, and at a medium ſixty-eight and a half. This perhaps to ſome people, may appear too nice a calculation, conſidering it is an undertaking dependent upon many accidents of winds and weather; but in anſwer to this objection it muſt be remembered, that great part of the

voyage

voyage is performed within the Tropic, where the winds and weather are perfectly periodical: and even in the Mediterranean where only the winds are variable, they are never known in summer, to blow long between the S. and E. the only quarter of the compass unfavourable to the vessels bound from the ports of Italy and France, to the Levant. The manner of performing the principal part of the voyage, that is through Egypt and from thence to India, is in a great measure explained in the following letter; but in that nothing is mentioned of the European part of the journey.

It cannot be necessary to offer much advice to couriers, they of course consult only the most expeditious mode of travelling, without paying the least attention to their own private pleasure or convenience. Gentlemen on the contrary, less able, or less willing to bear fatigue, will wish to be informed how they may perform this voyage agreeably; at a moderate expence; and without a risque of injuring their health. The first thing to be provided is a strong second-hand post-chaise, which will cost between thirty and forty pounds: a large trunk before, a small one behind, and a chaise

ſeat will carry as much or more baggage than is neceſſary for two gentlemen, and one ſervant; allowing each gentleman a Turkiſh dreſs, two coats, a dozen and half of ſhirts, two dozen pair of common, and one dozen pair of ſilk ſtockings, two pair of ſhoes, and other neceſſaries in the ſame proportion. This perhaps may be thought a ſcanty allowance; for generally young travellers prepare for their firſt excurſion on the continent, as if nothing could be procured out of their own country; whereas experience ſoon teaches them that they have not occaſion for much more baggage than Mr. Sterne carried with him on his ſentimental journey. Thoſe who are fond of tea, and are nice about the quality of it, as many Engliſhmen are, will do well to take two or three pounds with them; for that which they will find in the inns abroad or any where on the way will be rather coarſe and unpalatable. It may alſo be proper to take a few cakes of portable ſoup to ſerve on board a ſhip, and even on ſhore, particularly in Egypt; to which may be added a bottle or two of the eſſence of ſellery, with which and a little vermicelli or rice, a perſon may prepare a good meſs of ſoup on the

Deſert,

Desert, with the same fire that serves the Arabs to boil their coffee.

With liquor every person may suit himself, remembering that either in France or Italy at the place where he embarks, he may purchase a great variety of good wines; and at Alexandria he may procure a fresh supply, should his sea stock be exhausted on his arrival there. As to medicines it is universally allowed the fewer he is obliged to take the better, still however he should consider his constitution, and if he is subject to any particular disorder, he will do well to consult his physician about carrying with him a small quantity of those medicines which he is most likely to require. The most healthy and robust are not exempt from accidents, therefore every person may take from England half a dozen papers of James's powders, and two pounds of bark, which are cheap, and easily carried, and besides the former is seldom to be procured so good in any foreign country; no person however should take or administer these medicines, without having previously endeavoured to learn in what cases, and in what proportions, they may be given with efficacy and safety. This advice,

eſpecially that which relates to culinary matters, may appear trivial to travellers who have been accuſtomed to go from one poſt town to another in Europe; but in Aſia, where there are no inns, a prudent man although no epicure will do well to guard againſt being in want of a ſufficient ſupply of wholeſome food. The neceſſity of carrying medicine will hardly be diſputed, but neither would I adviſe any perſon to undertake croſſing the great deſert, without learning to bleed and dreſs ſlight wounds; by which means he may not only ſave his own life, or that of a friend, but he will alſo merely from the reputation of his ſkill, obtain great reſpect from the whole caravan. The practice of ſurgery it is true is diſagreeable to thoſe who are not brought up in the profeſſion; but it is ſtill more diſagreeable not to be able to adminiſter relief to a fellow creature in diſtreſs.

These hints being given for providing a carriage, clothes, proviſion and medicines, ſome account may next be expected of the expence, but that is at preſent impoſſible. If government or the company ſhould hereafter eſtabliſh pacquet boats between the European ports and

Alex-

Alexandria, and alſo between Suez and the ports of India, the expence will then be eaſily aſcertained, and conſidering the length of the voyage, be very moderate. The chaiſe will ſell at the place of embarkation for as much or more than it coſt in England; the only expence therefore of the journey through Europe would be the poſt horſes and charges at the inns, amounting to thoſe who like to live well to about fifty pounds; to the Captain of the pacquet to Alexandria, if he finds the table, forty pounds; at Alexandria ten pounds; from thence to Suez forty pounds; at Suez ten pounds; from thence to India ſixty pounds; and for contingences forty pounds; making altogether two hundred and fifty pounds, which divided between two, makes one hundred and twenty-five pounds each. But this account of the journey, and the calculation of the expence muſt be underſtood to relate only to the outward bound paſſengers: thoſe who come home will not travel ſo faſt, nor ſo cheap; for in the firſt place they will be much longer coming up, than going down the Red Sea, and conſequently muſt pay dearer for their paſſage; and beſides the delay and expence of performing

quarantine muſt come into the account of the return from India to Europe.

* It is ſaid a plan is now in agitation to ſubvert the Turkiſh empire, the ſucceſs of which muſt in a great meaſure depend upon the part we are inclined to take in the conteſt: but ſhould the Imperialiſts and Ruſſians prevail; the deſert between Suez and Cairo may hereafter become the poſt road to India, and Europeans paſs it with as little apprehenſion of danger, as any perſon now feels in performing a journey from London to Paris. But this perhaps to ſome politicians may not be thought a very deſirable event, leſt ſuch a facility of communication between Europe and Aſia, ſhould in the end be detrimental to our India trade. Let ſuch men calculate the expence of ſending goods up the Red Sea to Suez; of landing thoſe goods, and tranſporting them on camels upwards of ſeventy miles to the Nile; of ſending them from Cairo to Alexandria,

* Since the publication of the firſt edition of this work, a peace has been concluded between the Ruſſians and the Turks, by which the former have obtained from the latter the free navigation of the Black Sea, and many other conſiderable advantages.

Ro-

Rosetta, or Damietta; and of reimbarking them at one of those places for the European Markets; and they will find that goods sent round the Cape of Good Hope at a proper season, and subject to no expence, or danger of being spoilt on the way, would come at least fifty per cent. cheaper to any market in Europe.

When the Venetians lost the India trade, no violence, no finesse was used to deprive them of it; the trade died away of itself, because the Portugeze and other European nations, passing round the Cape of Good Hope, could by means of the shortness and safety of the voyage, afford to under-sell them in those articles of India commerce which they received only by the more tedious, dangerous, and expensive channel of the Red Sea: But the probability of the danger of the trade by this route becoming prejudicial to ours by the Cape of Good Hope, being admitted in its fullest extent; are we to suppose that other European nations are so blind to their own interest, so strangely ignorant, or so absurdly indolent, as not to discover it, and immediately avail themselves of their knowledge? If goods can realy be brought cheaper from India to Europe that way,

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in vain ſhall we attempt to oppoſe the general interests of Europe and Aſia; the India trade muſt in the courſe of a few years unavoidably find its way to the eaſieſt and moſt profitable channel. He who thinks otherwiſe, knows but little of human nature, and ſtill leſs of the principles of politics, and trade.

BUT whether or not the trade by the Red Sea will materially operate to the prejudice of that by the Cape of Good Hope, is not at preſent the queſtion; nor is it certainly our buſineſs to encourage the experiment: all that is immediately contended for is the revocation of the firmaun, as far as relates to obtaining a free paſſage for our couriers through Egypt, which in common juſtice cannot be refuſed. The tenor of the firmaun eſſentially affects our intereſt, and the language of it is extremely inſulting; nor ſhould it be forgotten that it was iſſued in the hour of our deepeſt diſtreſs. Happily the ſcene is now reverſed, of which if we are too generous to take advantage, ſtill however it is to be hoped we ſhall at leaſt oblige the Turks to admit our claims of a free paſſage through every part of their dominions.

THE

The way to India by Baſſora is fatiguing, and rather dangerous, and conſequently will ſeldom be taken by choice, or for the bare gratification of curioſity; but as ſome of the company's ſervants may be obliged to paſs over the great Deſert on public buſineſs, I think it incumbent on me to furniſh them with all the information in my power, that they may execute the orders of their employers with ſafety and diſpatch; and alſo perform the journey with all poſſible convenience to themſelves. For this purpoſe I ſhall ſubjoin to this work the copy of a journal I kept when going that route, and as a common itinerary would be very unintereſting to moſt readers, I ſhall interſperſe in it ſome anecdotes and remarks, which I truſt will be deemed both amuſing and uſeful.

By the ſeveral ways of the Cape of Good Hope, Suez, and Baſſora, we ſhall be able to ſend diſpatches to and from India at all ſeaſons; but being excluded from any one of them, there will be an anxious interval of ſome months in every year, when we ſhall mutually be ignorant of what is paſſing in the different countries. The beſt ſeaſon for leaving England, to

go

go by the Cape of Good Hope, commences in November and ends in April; that by Suez commences in April and ends in the middle of June; and that by Baſſora will be the beſt route all the reſt of the year. To have a conſtant ſucceſſion of intelligence eſtabliſhed almoſt as regular as our poſts at home, would be but a very trifling, if any expence; would afford general ſatisfaction to every perſon concerned in India affairs; and at the ſame time would be productive of innumerable advantages both to Government and the Eaſt India company.

A SKETCH OF
EGYPT,
and the
different ROUTES both Ancient & Modern,
from the
RED SEA to the MEDITERRANEAN.
By
Colonel James Capper.
Note, a line drawn under a Name, denotes the Ancient
Name of that place as Coptos.
Longitude E. from Greenwich
MEDITERRANEAN
RED SEA
RIVER NILE
ALEXANDRIA
Rosetto
Gaza
Suez
CAIRO
Memphis
Dashour
Feium
Benisuef
Fesheen
Bennicasem
Maneah
Melavi
Monfaluat
Tahta
Girge
Baligera
Dandera
Ghennah
Keft or Coptos
Kous
THEBES
Esneh
Assuan
Phænicon
Didyme
Aphrodito
Compasi
Hydreum Jovis
Aristonis
Phalacrum
Hydreum Apollinis
Cabalsi
Cenon Hydreuma
Berenice
Cofire
Tor
Ras Mohammed
Mt. Horeb
Mt. Sinai
Raphidim
Ramathim
Scoki
Mesmar
Ain el harosh
Minsiere
Magar
Wadalar
Gaiano
Lebnan
L. Sheib
Terane
Mehalle
Semenhud
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L E T T E R.

S I R,

I SHOULD find very little difficulty in writing ſuch an account of a journey over land to Europe by the way of Suez as would be uſeful, and perhaps in ſome degree entertaining to a perſon who had never paſſed over the great deſert; but I confeſs myſelf puzzled how to addreſs you on the ſubject, who have already gone by the way of Baſſora, and conſequently muſt be perfectly acquainted with almoſt every thing neceſſary for a traveller to know. But as

I may not be able to discriminate between what may, and what may not be requisite for you, to know; allow me Sir! to enter on the subject, as if you had never been in Arabia; the major part of the advice if not necessary for yourself, may hereafter perhaps be serviceable to some of your friends.

The principal objections I have heard mentioned against a voyage to Europe by the way of Suez are the expence, the inconvenience, and the danger of it. The expence would be trifling to a man of fortune, or when divided between two or three persons would be less to each of them than going round the Cape of Good Hope; the navigation of the Red Sea being now tolerably well known can in a proper season no longer be deemed dangerous; and as to inconvenience, I know of none, but what might be almost entirely removed by means of a little money properly applied. In passing from Suez to Alexandria, you may possibly meet with some disagreeable embarrassments from which a man of rank and fortune is generally exempt in a more civilized country; but most of these are to be avoided, or at least greatly lessened by giving

prefents of no great value to the Beys, and other leading men in Egypt.

In all Arabian and Turkifh countries, efpecially in thofe near the city of Mecca, to avoid the infults of the lower clafs of people, an European fhould allow his beard and whifkers to grow, and always wear an Eaftern drefs; it is beft to make up a coarfe one in the Arabian fafhion for travelling, and another rather elegant in the Turkifh fafhion to wear at Cairo, and Alexandria. If you perform the journey in winter, a pellis will be both ufeful and ornamental; but it may be proper to remark that a Chriftian fhould not wear green clothes at any place in the Levant, for green is a colour deemed facred to thofe who have made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and to the defcendants of the Prophet; nor do the Turks like to fee an European in red, which was alfo Mahomed's favourite colour.

Those who undertake long journies in Europe are obliged to furnifh themfelves with bills of exchange, but on this they are not indifpenfably neceffary; a perfon of character may have credit to any amount the whole way for drafts

upon England or India; but if you do not choose to be without a sufficient supply of ready money, you should take with you Venetian chequins, which are very portable, and at the same time current in all countries between India and England.

I PRESUME you will find no difficulty in getting an Interpreter to attend you, who speaks both the Arabic and Turkish languages: the former is absolutely necessary from the entrance of the Red Sea to Suez, the latter is mostly used by all men of distinction in Egypt.

DURING the month of November, at which time I should propose you to leave Madras, the voyage round the island of Ceylon is extremely tedious; I should imagine therefore it would be more eligible for you to apply to the Government of Bombay, for one or more of the Company's cruizers, to be sent about the middle of November to Anjengo, the one for yourself, and another small one for a tender or pilot vessel. The captain of the ship on which you embark will of course take care to lay in a sufficient stock of every kind of provision for your table, but above all he should be directed to take plenty of

water

water from Bombay, for that on the ſouthern part of the Malabar Coaſt is but indifferent, and the beſt to be got in the Red Sea is ſcarcely drinkable. If you travel through the Travancore country with your baggage in the month of November, which is during the height of the Monſoon, the rain may ſpoil it; your ſervants therefore ſhould ſet out with it ſomewhat earlier: in a good palanquin you yourſelf will be very little incommoded by the weather, for you may ſleep every night in good Choultries or elſe in Churches all the way from Pallamcotah to Anjengo*. A mariner might perhaps adviſe you not to ſail ſo ſoon as November from the Malabar coaſt; he would ſay it was too early to make the moſt expeditious paſſage, for that

* In the Eaſt where there are no inns, they have been obliged to erect public buildings for the reception of travellers, which bear different names in different countries; on the coaſt of Choromandel they are called Choultries. The above-mentioned Churches are thoſe which the Catholic Miſſionaries have prevailed on the King of Travancore to allow them to build on the ſea coaſt of his country; but the good fathers, although indefatigable in their duty, have by their zeal rather injured than ſerved the cauſe of Chriſtianity; for having received the loweſt and moſt abandoned outcaſts of the country into the boſom of the church, and not made any other converts; the Chriſtians in India with reſpect to religion, are univerſally looked upon as the refuſe of all other people.

you will be liable to meet with contrary winds above Gedda. It is true if you are desirous of making a short voyage to Suez you should not think of passing Gedda before the commencement of the Khümseen wind; but for my own part, I should not hesitate about submitting to be a few days longer on board a ship to enjoy the satisfaction of travelling through Egypt in cool weather. The Khumseen wind comes from the same quarter as the well known Siroco, and is productive of nearly the same effects; it is unpleasant even at sea, and in passing the desert would be almost intolerable. The plague is also apt to break out late in the spring, and seldom rages at Cairo violently before March or April. As your Captain will doubtless be an experienced officer, and likewise be furnished with good charts, it will not be necessary for me to trouble you with a nautical memoire; I shall therefore only touch very slightly on marine observations, and confine my remarks to what may principally contribute to your convenience or amusement.

It is usual for ships in the month of November to work up the Malabar coast by the assistance of the land and sea breezes as high as

Porca or Cochin, and then with the N. E. wind to ſtretch over to the weſtward, and make Calpini and Schulipar two of the Lacadivi's; after leaving theſe the next land you make is the iſland of Socotra, which is ſituated near the entrance of the Streights of Babelmandel. The Arabian or Eaſt ſhore of theſe ſtreights, to which you approach within a few leagues, affords ſome very romantic views; conſiſting principally of immenſe mountains and high broken rocks, with the ruins of caſtles upon them; but there are few inhabited towns of any eminence until you have paſſed the Iſland of Perim, which with the cape on the eaſtern ſhore forms what the Arabs call Al Bab, or the Gate.

You will loſe very little time by ſtopping at Mocha, which is the firſt ſeaport town on the eaſt coaſt of the Red Sea within the gate, where you may procure all kinds of refreſhments, particularly plenty of moſt excellent grapes. If your ſtock of proviſions brought from Bombay ſhould not be good, or be nearly exhauſted; you may purchaſe here Abiſſynian ſheep, which are exactly the ſame as thoſe at the Cape of Good Hope, half a dozen of which will be ſufficient to laſt you to Gedda, where you will be able to ſup-

ply

ply yourſelf ſufficiently with every thing neceſſary for the remainder of the voyage, both of a better quality and at a cheaper rate.

The ſheep at Mocha are very dear, being all brought over as an article of trade from the oppoſite ſhore of Abiſſynia: it appears however very extraordinary that the natives of the ſouthern part of Arabia Felix who breed the fineſt horſes, mules, and aſſes in the world, ſhould neglect to breed ſheep, which doubtleſs would thrive very well in the ſame paſtures; eſpecially as mutton and lamb, conſtitute a principal part of their own food.

The view of Mocha from the Sea, will probably induce you to go on ſhore there; the houſes, moſques, minarets, and even the walls of the place are white-waſhed, which at a diſtance gives an air of neatneſs to the town, but the inſide of it you will find by no means correſpond with its external appearance. The Governor will certainly ſend you an invitation by the Company's broker to come on ſhore; and if you accept of it, I am perſuaded he will receive you with the utmoſt reſpect. We were introduced to him as common travellers going

to Suez, on our way to Europe. On our landing, he caused us to be saluted with three guns, and the master of the port gave us coffee at the gate where we stopped a few minutes, to wait the arrival of the Governor's musick, and also a horse to be led before each of us: preceded in this manner, and attended by some persons of rank, we went to the Governor's house, which stands in the middle of a large square, and is built of rough stone, and unburnt brick: we were conducted up two pair of narrow broken stairs into his apartments, where he was seated in a kind of raised window seat, to command a view of the sea; he rose when we entered the room, and saluted us very courteously in the manner of the Arabians, by placing his right hand on his left breast, and slightly inclining his head. After some general conversation about our intended journey, which continued about a quarter of an hour, pipes, sweetmeats and coffee were brought, and at last a censer to perfume the beard and clothes, the introduction of which, in all Eastern countries as you very well know, Sir, is intended as a hint for taking leave.

If you choose to sleep on shore, the broker will conduct you to a house belonging to the Company, built in the Arabian stile. A gentleman of the Bombay establishment, resided here two or three years as a supra-cargo, or agent, but the plan not answering either to him or his employers, he was recalled; and the Company's business has since in a great measure been transacted by the broker, who is a native of Guzerat, and speaks both English and Moors.

There are some few dangerous shoals between Mocha and Gedda, but nothing is to be apprehended from them at this season of the year, when the wind thus far is fair for going to the Northward. The town of Gedda is not particularly worth seeing, and therefore it is better not to go on shore there, for as it is only sixty miles distant from Mecca, a Christian of whatever rank, even although disguised in the country dress, would be liable to disagreeable taunts and insults from the mob, who almost think themselves contaminated with the breath of an unbeliever when so near their holy ground. Your interpreter, or any Mahomedan belonging

ing to your veſſel, will be able to get you any thing you may want.

It is at Gedda that the diſagreeable part of the voyage commences, for within a degree or two at moſt North of this place you generally loſe the Monſoon, and meet the N. W. Wind, which as I have before obſerved prevails above ten months of the year in this part of the Red Sea. The Gedda pilots who make an annual voyage backwards and forwards to Suez, muſt of courſe be acquainted with all the ports, and alſo with the winds and currents and appearance of bad weather, &c.—It would therefore be prudent to take one of them to conduct you ſafely to Suez; the expence I believe would not exceed thirty pounds, and he may probably ſhorten your voyage at leaſt a fortnight, or perhaps three weeks, beſides leſſening the danger.

It is much to be lamented, that the Captain of the Coventry Frigate, who lately went up the Red Sea, was inadvertently betrayed into a quarrel with the inhabitants of Coſire, a place about ſix degrees North of Gedda on the Weſtern ſhore, and only one hundred and twenty miles from the banks of the Nile; a perſon if

he could with ſafety, would at all times chooſe to land there in preference to Suez, for the upper part of the Red Sea is the moſt tedious and dangerous part of the whole voyage, and beſides Upper Egypt is full of monuments of antiquity. The ruins of the famous city of Thebes are within a very few miles of Ghinnah, where you go to from Coſire; and the banks of the Nile all the way from thence to Cairo, are covered with valuable remains of ruined cities, of which Dr. Pococke and Mr. Norden have publiſhed very learned and accurate accounts. It is ſaid that not only the fort, and a number of houſes were deſtroyed, but alſo that near ſix hundred of the inhabitants were killed. This account is probably very much exaggerated, but it is to be feared as a heavy fire was kept up on the town for upwards of two hours, many of the people muſt have fallen, and therefore at preſent it is unneceſſary to examine more minutely into this route. I cannot however conclude this digreſſion without expreſſing a hope that ſome atonement will be made to them for their loſſes, which whether they were attacked juſtly or not, is abſolutely neceſſary before any European ought to venture to paſs that way: by way of retaliation they will ſacrifice

crifice every one they can get hold of, until ſome effectual means have been taken to pacify them.

THERE are many large towns on the Eaſt ſide of the Red Sea between Gedda and Suez, but as one Arabian town differs very little from another, after having ſeen Mocha, it would only be a loſs of time to ſtop either at Yambo, or Tor; the former a place of great trade not far from Medina; and the latter a ſmall port inhabited principally by pilots, where there are wells of tolerable good water. Tor is about five and thirty miles from Mount Sinai, near to which there is a convent of Greek Chriſtians, ſaid to have been founded by the Empreſs Helena, and dedicated to St. Catherine. If you have any curioſity to ſee this convent in all probability by writing to the monks, permiſſion might be obtained from the Arabs to paſs unmoleſted from Tor; but the Arabs and monks are not always on good terms: the rapacity of the former, the defenceleſs ſtate of the latter, and the bigotry of both parties, occaſion frequent diſputes between them. The monks to guard againſt any ſurpriſe, conſtantly keep their doors ſhut, and when they have occaſion to go

out

out or come in, are drawn up in a baſket to one of the windows of the convent, which are not leſs than forty feet high; but they ſeldom go out, having every article of proviſion for their table within their own walls, which are rather more than three quarters of a mile in extent.

The voyage from * Tor to Suez may eaſily be performed in one day with a fair wind, but at any rate in five. Immediately as a ſhip appears in ſight of Suez, a boat is ſent on board to enquire the purpoſe of her coming: and the officer generally brings a preſent from the Governor conſiſting of a ſheep or two, ſome ſmall flat cakes of bread, a jar of water, and a ſmall quantity of fruit, particularly oranges, which are juicy and of a very delicious flavour. As the meſſenger is a man of ſome rank, it is uſual to ſalute him with three guns, and to entertain him with coffee, tobacco, ſweetmeats, &c. When he returns on ſhore he will carry a letter for you to any perſon at Cairo, and it will be

* The journey from Tor to Gaza is uſually performed by the Arabs in five days, but it is not to be attempted by Europeans until we are on perfect good terms with the Sherreef of Mecca, and alſo with the Sheicks of the neighbouring deſert.

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forwarded by expreſs the ſame evening, together with an account of your arrival to the principal Bey of Cairo, who is called Sheick Belled. It would not be prudent to write any ſecrets in the letter, but you may ſend inſtructions concerning your journey, and directions to have a veſſel prepared for you at Alexandria. Your rank you may conceal or mention as you think proper. In my opinion ſuppoſing they have no reaſon to ſuſpect you of carrying money or jewels to any great amount, it would be better to make yourſelf known. They may indeed expect preſents accordingly, but then their attention to you will alſo be proportioned to your liberality to them; the difference of expence will be but trifling to a man of fortune, and the conveniences you will derive from being thought a perſon of high ſtation will be very great. Lord A. Percy who was at Cairo in the year 1776, appeared there in his proper character and was treated with great politeneſs; nor if I was well in formed, was there a great diſproportion between the preſents he gave, and thoſe he received in return. A perſon who from neceſſity is obliged, or from diſpoſition inclined to be a rigid œconomiſt, ſhould not attempt to travel for curioſity or pleaſure in the Levant, where the inſolence

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and bigotry of the natives can only be got the better of by an appearance of wealth and liberality; ſhould buſineſs oblige any one to paſs that way who is not rich, or indifferent about expence; he muſt do the beſt he can, but he will do well to lay in a good ſtock of patience. The Governor of Suez is generally one of the Beys or Lords who compoſe the Ariſtocracy in Egypt, his rank of courſe entitles him to ſome attention. If you chuſe to viſit him it is only neceſſary to announce your intention the day before, and to fix the hour you will go on ſhore, and he will doubtleſs receive you with civility. But as the anſwer of your letter to Cairo will probably come back in four days at moſt, it will perhaps be better to wait until it arrives: for the Governor of Suez will not know what reception to give you until he hears from Cairo, and in the mean time, you may plead ill health for ſtaying on board the ſhip.

The moſt acceptable preſents you can offer theſe people are ſhort double barrelled ſilver mounted guns or piſtols, if bell mouthed the better, china bowls, ſmall French gold repeating watches, ſhauls, keemkaubs, or pieces of muſlin. Any of theſe things given to the Governor

vernor of Suez, and ſome trifle of the ſame k'nd to the officer of the cuſtoms, who is a ſervant to the Grand Signior, and appointed by the Baſhaw at Cairo, will enſure you great reſpect, and prevent your baggage from being ſearched and tumbled. A cautious man or an œconomiſt might object to a declaration of your rank, leaſt your ſuppoſed wealth being made known to the Arabs, ſhould tempt them to attack you in paſſing the deſert; for my own part I do not think there is any danger of it, and indeed I am convinced there is more riſque in ſubjecting yourſelf to be diſcovered by accident, than by publickly avowing your rank; and declaring that the purpoſes of your journey are curioſity and amuſement. The preſent Duke de Lafoens, a Portugueze nobleman, was incognito at Alexandria nearly at the ſame time that Lord Percy appeared there in his proper character, and whilſt the latter was allowed to ride on horſeback, attended by guards, and received preſents of horſes and other things nearly equivalent to what he gave to the Beys; an order was iſſued to arreſt the former, and it was with ſome difficulty that aſſiſted by Mr. Baldwin he made his eſcape on

board a ſhip lying at Alexandria*. The Sheick Belled has great authority over both the Turks and Arabs, and therefore protected by his guards, which probably he would ſend to eſcort you as ſoon as he is informed who you are, you would paſs the Iſthmus of Suez without any danger of being moleſted.

The diſtance from Suez to Cairo is not more than ſeventy miles, ſome people have repreſented this little journey as very fatiguing and dangerous. I have already given my opinion of the danger, which with common diſcretion I muſt repeat, appears to me perfectly imaginary; and as to fatigue you may travel in a tukt-rawan or litter carried by camels or mules, the motion of which is not very uneaſy: theſe machines are eaſily procured at Cairo, but it would be moſt adviſeable for you to get one made of bamboo at Bombay, which would be both light and commodious, and ſerve you both as a travelling carriage and a tent. Should you not chooſe to be encumbered with a tukt-rawan, nor the Bey

* The Spaniards and Portugueze carry on a kind of perpetual war againſt all Mahomedans; which was an additional reaſon for the Bey's intending to impriſon the above-mentioned nobleman.

ſend you a horſe, your agent will be able to procure you one at Cairo; but at the worſt, you may borrow one of the Arabian guards who eſcort you from Suez, and theſe horſes although not very handſome, are far from being unpleaſant to ride; their paces are agreeable, and they are entirely free from vice.

When the day of your departure from Suez is fixed, you ſhould make a large proviſion of bread and ready dreſſed meat, fowls, mutton, &c. the ſeaſon being cold, ſuch things will keep good for three or four days, which is longer than you can well be on the road to Cairo. Your party will always halt at night, when you may dreſs any thing, if you prefer hot victuals to cold. There is no water on the deſert, and therefore I would adviſe you to take a few dozen bottles in baſkets from the ſhip; for that at Suez is rather brackiſh, and beſides the Arabs carry theirs in ſkins, which are not always very clean.

Notwithstanding I think there is no danger of being moleſted by the Arabs, eſpecially after having taken the precautions I have already mentioned; yet to put it paſt a doubt,

I would advise you when the paſſport comes from Cairo, to ſend your baggage forwards a couple of days before you; and when you have heard by expreſs ſent back to you that it is advanced about half way to Cairo; unincumbered with a ſtring of camels, that move ſlowly and detain each other, you may then ſet out; and without travelling in the heat of the day, arrive yourſelf at moſt in eight and forty hours, allowing even a proper time for ſleep and refreſhment on the way. The Arabs, unleſs tempted by the hopes of plunder, or provoked by ſome act of hoſtility, are never guilty of violence to travellers of any denomination; therefore if your baggage paſſes unmoleſted, which muſt ever be the ſole object of their attack, your perſon will be perfectly ſafe. This journey might be performed with great eaſe in eighteen or twenty hours, but then your baggage muſt be left behind; nor will you eaſily perſuade your eſcort to keep up with you at this rate of travelling.

The face of the country nearly reſembles that of the great deſert, being barren and deſtitute of trees, excepting a few of the Egyptian thorn, bearing a yellow flower. Within about twenty miles of Cairo, you meet with rocks amongſt

which

which you may find a ſtone that reſembles petrified wood beautifully variegated. I thought it ſufficiently curious to be taken to Europe; and therefore carried a few ſmall pieces with me, which were much admired at home.

It is neceſſary to get to Cairo before ſun-ſet, at which time the gates are ſhut; for if you arrive five minutes after they are cloſed, you will be obliged to paſs the night very uncomfortably in the ſuburbs amongſt poor Arabian huts. But independent of this inconvenience it is very deſi.able to be near Cairo about the middle of the day to enjoy one of the moſt pleaſing proſpects I have ever ſeen; the beauties of which perhaps are ſomewhat heightened by coming after a ſucceſſion of views every one more dreary and deſolate than the other.

When about three miles from Cairo, from the ſummit of an Hill you perceive that city ſituated in a fertile valley, and watered by the Nile, which meanders at the ſide of, and beyond its walls through a rich country as far as the eye can reach each way. To the S. W. is an immenſe high rock, at the foot of which and adjoining to the town is the citadel and palace;

lace; to the N. and N. W. the buildings cover a ſpace of at leaſt ten or twelve miles in circumference, amongſt which are many magnificent tombs and moſques, whoſe domes and adjoining columns give a variety to this view, ſurpaſſing even that of the beſt built towns in the Catholick countries, where the churches add greatly to the beauty of their external appearance. The weather was rather hazy the day we were on this hill, or I ſhould ſuppoſe we muſt alſo have perceived the Pyramids in the back ground of this charming landſcape.

Upon entering the gates of the city you are not ſtopt and interrogated as you generally are coming into the towns on the continent of Europe, but your guides conduct you immediately to the houſe of your European correſpondent; and he the next day will ſettle with the officers of the cuſtoms about your baggage. If they have ſealed up your trunks at Suez, as they uſually do, you ſhould not ſuffer thoſe ſeals to be taken off, or broken; for they may be glad of ſuch a pretence for threatening you with the diſpleaſure of government, in order to demand a conſiderable bribe for huſh money: theſe artifices they will be likely enough to practiſe upon you

if you afford them an opportunity, eſpecially if you conceal your name and rank.

THE officers of the cuſtoms at Suez ſealed up our trunks, and alſo our pacquets, and in this manner we carried them to Cairo; but as much rain fell whilſt we were croſſing the deſert, we opened our trunks and boxes in order to dry our cloaths, but above all our papers; not however without having previouſly conſulted a gentleman at Cairo, concerning the propriety of it. The next morning when the cuſtom-houſe officers came to examine our baggage, being told of what we had done, they affected to believe we had broken the ſeals to conceal ſome prohibited goods, or at leaſt to avoid paying the proper duties. We might perhaps have been able to pacify them by means of a little money, but our friend ſlighted their menaces, truſting he ſhould get the Sheick Belled to interfere in our behalf; unfortunately for us he was again deceived, and in the end this little act of inadvertency coſt us near three hundred pounds, together with no little anxiety, on account of being detained ſeveral days at Alexandria by the order of the Baſhaw.

After your arrival at Cairo, I would advise you as well for health as for pleaſure, almoſt immediately to repair to the hummam or bagnio. The Turkiſh manner of bathing is infinitely ſuperior to any thing of the kind that is now known, or at leaſt practiſed in any part of Europe, for even moſt of the inhabitants of Italy, once ſo famous for the magnificence of their baths, have long neglected this luxurious but ſalutary cuſtom; as ſome of your friends may never have ſeen a Turkiſh bagnio, I ſhall attempt a deſcription of that I uſed, which was one of the common ſort, ſuch as are to be met with in every city in the Levant.

The firſt room is the undreſſing chamber which is lofty and ſpacious, about twenty-five feet long, and eighteen wide; near the wall is a kind of bench raiſed about two feet from the floor, and about ſeven or eight feet wide, ſo that after bathing a perſon may lie down upon it at full length; the windows are near the top of the room, as well that the wind may not blow upon the bathers when undreſſed, as for decency's ſake. After undreſſing a ſervant gives you a napkin to wrap round you, and alſo a pair of ſlippers, and thus equipped you are

conducted

conducted through a narrow passage to the steam room or bath, which is a large round building of about twenty-five feet diameter paved with marble, and in the centre of it is a circular bench where you are seated until you find yourself in a profuse perspiration; then your guide or attendant immediately begins rubbing you with his hand covered with a piece of coarse stuff called Kessay, and thereby peels off from the skin a kind of skurf, which cannot be moved by washing only. When he has rubbed you a few minutes he conducts you to a small room, where there is a hot bath about four feet deep and ten feet square, in which he will offer to wash you having his hand covered with a smoother stuff than before; or you may have some perfumed soap given you to wash yourself: After you have remained here as long as is agreeable you are conducted to another little side room, where you find two cocks of water the one hot and the other cold; which you may throw over you with a bason; the water being tempered to any degree of warmth, or perfectly cold if you prefer it. This being the last ablution, you are then covered with a napkin, and from hence again conducted to the undressing room, and placed upon the before-mentioned

bench with a carpet under you, and being extended upon it at full length, your attendant again offers to rub you dry with napkins. Some people have their nails cut, and alſo are ſhampoed *; the Turks generally ſmoak after bathing and the operation of ſhampoing; and in about an hour, a few minutes more or leſs, they commonly dreſs and go home.

It is to be wiſhed that ſome able phyſician would take the trouble of informing us what would be the probable effects of the uſe of the Turkiſh baths in England. If we were to judge by a compariſon between the endemical diſorders of Aſia and Europe, we ſhould ſuppoſe that the moderate uſe of the bath might render the gout

* Shampoing is variouſly performed in different countries. The moſt uſual manner is ſimply preſſing the hands and fingers upon the body and limbs, particularly near the extremities, ſo as to compreſs, but not to pinch them. This is the general manner practiſed by the ſervants of the Aſiatics, but the barbers and the guides at the baths make alſo the joints and even the vertebræ of the back crack by a ſudden jerk, which to people unaccuſtomed to it in their youth, is rather a painful ſenſation. The Chineſe and Malay barbers particularly excel in this art, which however is very well known, and generally practiſed all over Aſia, where it is thought a neceſſary ſubſtitute for exerciſe during the hot weather.

and rheumatiſm as uncommon in this part of the world, as they are in the other.

Very few Aſiatics are afflicted with theſe complaints, although they eat their meat very highly ſeaſoned with ſpices, and ſtewed in clarified butter; ſeldom take any exerciſe, and even many of them ſecretly indulge in other exceſſes, which with us are ſuppoſed to cauſe the gout. Why then may we not allow ſome degree of efficacy in warm baths and ſhampoing, in throwing off thoſe humours, which not being removed, occaſion the gout and other chronical diſorders amongſt us; but my knowledge of theſe matters being very ſuperficial, I only humbly ſuggeſt theſe ideas to the faculty for their conſideration and opinion: thus much however I can pretend to ſay from my own experience, that the warm bath is very refreſhing after undergoing violent fatigue. In coming from Suez to Cairo, a journey of ſeventy miles, I was expoſed to very bad weather, for two days and two nights, with no tent or covering but a cloak. On my arrival at my journey's end very much harraſſed with fatigue, and benumbed with cold I went into a warm bath, in which having remained about half an hour I was perfectly reco-

vered, and never in my life was in better ſpirits, or more able to have purſued my journey*.

THE

* IN the laſt voyage of Captain Cooke which has been publiſhed ſince this letter was written are the following obſervations on the cuſtom of ſhampoing, which with the remarks I have taken the liberty of adding, I am in hopes will amuſe the curious reader, and be of ſervice to valetudinarians. Mr. Anderſon, in the account of his viſit to the King of the iſland of Tongataboo, vol. i. page 323, Cooke's voyage, obſerves, "when ſupper "was over, abundance of cloth was brought for us to ſleep on; "but we were a good deal diſturbed by a ſingular inſtance of "luxury, in which their principal men indulge themſelves; "that of being beaten while they were aſleep. Two women ſat "by Tuttafaihie, and performed this operation, which is called "tooge tooge, by beating briſkly on his body and legs with both "fiſts as on a drum, till he fell aſleep; when once the perſon is "aſleep, they abate a little in the ſtrength and quickneſs of the "beating, but reſume it if they obſerve any appearance of his "awaking. In the morning we found, that Tuttafaihie's wo"men relieved each other, and went to ſleep by turns. In any "other country, it would be ſuppoſed, that ſuch a practice "would put an end to all reſt, but here it certainly acts as an "opiate, and is a ſtrong proof of what habit may effect." Captain Cooke in the ſecond volume, page 63, informs us, that being by indiſpoſition prevented going to a marai in Attaharoo, he ſent Mr. King and Omai, and returned on board his ſhip attended by Otoo's mother, his three ſiſters, and eight more women. To uſe the Captain's own words, he adds, "at firſt I "thought this numerous train of females came into my boat with "no other view than to get a paſſage to Matavia, but when they "arrived at the ſhip they told me they intended paſſing the night "on board, for the expreſs purpoſe of undertaking the cure of "the

The day of your arrival at Cairo you muſt determine whether or not you will viſit the Sheik

“ the diſorder I complained of; which was a pain of the rheumatic kind, extending from the hip to the foot. I accepted the friendly offer, had a bed ſpread for them upon the cabbin floor and ſubmitted myſelf to their directions. I was deſired to lay myſelf down amongſt them. Then as many as could get round me, *began to ſqueeze me with both hands from head to foot*, but more particularly on the parts where the pain was lodged, till they made my bones crack, and my fleſh became a perfect mummy. In ſhort after undergoing this diſcipline about a quarter of an hour, I was glad to get away from them, however the operation gave me immediate relief, which encouraged me to ſubmit to another rubbing down before I went to bed; and it was ſo effectual, that I found myſelf pretty eaſy all the night after. My female phyſicians repeated their preſcriptions the next morning before they went aſhore, and again in the evening when they returned on board, after which I found the pain entirely removed, and the cure being perfected, they took their leave of me the following morning. This they call *romee*; an operation, which in my opinion far exceeds the fleſh bruſh, or any thing of the kind that we may uſe externally, it is univerſally practiſed amongſt the iſlanders, being ſometimes performed by the men, but more generally by the women. If at any time one appears languid and tired, and ſits down by any of them, they immediately begin to practiſe the romee upon one's legs, and I have always found it to have an exceeding good effect.

In theſe two extracts taken from the voyage of Captain Cooke lately publiſhed, every perſon who has been in India will recognize in an inſtant the operation of ſhampoing, which, as I have already

Sheick Belled, and the Bashaw, which will I suppose in a great measure depend upon their own

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already said in this work*, is universally practised all over the East. It is with great pleasure I avail myself of the testimony of two such respectable witnesses, to shew the existence of this custom, and also to prove its wonderful efficacy. The manner described by Mr. Anderson is practised in India as it is in Tongataboo, with this small difference, that the shampoers do not strike violently with the fists, but gently with the edge of the hands; nor I confess does it appear extraordinary to me that a person exhausted with fatigue, should thereby be lulled to rest. It might equally be thought that noise and motion would keep children awake, but we know the reverse to be true, for they are always sung and rocked to sleep, and even sometimes for want of a cradle the nurses strike them gently on the back with their open hands, which produces the same effect. We may suppose the King of Tongataboo had long been used to this indulgence, and therefore like a person accustomed to opiates, he required a strong dose; such a one as would disturb, and even hurt an European. The operation described by Captain Cooke is the most common kind of shampoing, and is that which is preferred by Europeans in the East, who seldom have recourse to any thing of that nature, excepting in cases of excessive fatigue, or real indisposition. If it were necessary, many persons now in England could vouch for the efficacy of shampoing, especially in relieving rheumatic or gouty pains; but what farther testimony can be necessary after the proof given us by a man exempt from the errors and fancies of weak minds, and whose veracity it is impossible to suspect. Possessed of such an incontestible proof of the fact, it were to be wished that a gentleman of Mr. Anderson's

* Vide supra.

pro-

own behaviour, or rather perhaps upon the character in which you choose to appear. If you travel incognito there will be no occasion for you to go near them; but in that case you must submit to the mortification of riding about on a jack ass, as all Christians do excepting those who have express permission to use a horse: but as Lord A. Percy, and also Lord

professional knowledge, and philosophical turn of mind, had upon the spot afforded this matter more particular consideration: as a medical man he probably would have been able to explain in what manner the operation of shampoing produced the wonderful effects above described; and his remarks being introduced into a work so universally read and admired, would of course have been no less universally known.

The philosopher who is continually in search of materials for forming an ingenious hypothesis, will naturally catch at this similitude of customs between the natives of the islands in the Pacific Ocean, and those of the great Eastern continent, to prove that the former are certainly descended from the latter. Without launching out into amusing conjectures and disquisitions, in which I have not at present leisure to indulge myself; I shall only beg leave to observe, that if another equipment for discoveries should take place, this curious point might in a great measure be ascertained, by sending linguists in the ships, who are acquainted with the Arabic, Malay, Chinese, and Russian languages. By carefully following the course these different languages have taken, we may trace them to the various channels into which they have flowed, and consequently by this, one of the surest guides, at length trace the people themselves to the fountain head from whence they sprung.

Charle-

Charlemont before him were both allowed horſes, your agent no doubt will be able to procure you the ſame indulgence; but then as I have already obſerved, preſents of ſome value will be neceſſary both to the Sheick Belled, and the Baſhaw. We were informed it was not neceſſary to viſit the Baſhaw, whoſe authority in the country they told us was merely nominal; but this to our coſt I have already ſaid we found to be a miſtake: for had we paid proper attention to him, or in other words had we waited upon him, and given him a trifling preſent; the affair of opening the pacquets would have been paſſed over in ſilence. To guard you againſt the ſame inconveniences that we experienced through ignorance of the nature of the Egyptian government, I ſhall attempt to give you a general idea of it.

Egypt is divided into twenty-four provinces, each of which is governed by a Sangiack or Bey: the major part of theſe twenty-four Beys reſide at Cairo, where always once a week, and ſometimes oftener they ſet in council, called by them the Divan: the Sheick Belled is the preſident of the council, and executive member of the government; his office is ſomewhat ſimi-

lar to that of the Doge of Venice, with rather more authority, but that indeed depends upon a variety of circumſtances, ſuch as whether he is a man of great abilities and firmneſs himſelf; whether he is ſupported by a large party amongſt his colleagues; and whether or not he is on good terms with the Baſhaw. When I was at Cairo the Sheick Belled was rather a weak man, and owed his ſafety to the mutual jealouſy of two rival Beys nearly of equal power, who both aſpired to his place. The Baſhaw is ſent from the Porte as Viceroy on the part of the Grand Signior; if he can contrive to ſow ſedition amongſt the Beys, and ſecretly attach himſelf to the ſtrongeſt party, whilſt he ſeems to obſerve a ſtrict neutrality, he ſometimes acquires more influence than even the Sheick Belled himſelf; but then he muſt act with great care and circumſpection, for ſhould his intrigues be diſcovered, and the adverſe party to his prevail, he certainly will be obliged to quit the country.

The manner of his diſmiſſion is characteriſtic of the gloomy and arbitrary proceedings of this oriental republic. The Beys having come to a reſolution of ſending him away, diſpatch a

Carracoulouck from the Divan or council to his houſe, who approaches the place where the Baſhaw is ſeated, and having ſilently turned up the corner of the carpet, abruptly goes away; he is however obliged to carry an order with him, which he puts into his boſom, leaving out a corner of it ſo as to be plainly perceived. The name Carracoulouck ſignifies a black meſſenger, for he is dreſſed in black, with a ſort of bonnet on his head, of the ſame colour.

THE Baſhaw never pretends to oppoſe this mandate or rather hint from the Divan, knowing that reſiſtance would very probably coſt him his life. He therefore as ſoon as poſſible retires quietly to Boulako, ſituated about two miles and a half to the weſtward of Cairo; or when he ſuſpects a violent degree of reſentment againſt him, he proceeds to Roſetto, and from thence ſails in the firſt veſſel to Cyprus, where he remains until he hears from Conſtantinople.

THE Divan or council of the Beys to keep up appearances with the Porte diſpatch a ſpecial meſſenger to Conſtantinople complaining of the miſconduct of the Baſhaw; but the Grand Signior conſcious of his inability to ſupport his officer,

officer, takes no other notice of his dismission, than in sending another Bashaw to Cairo, and often imposing a fine on the one who has been disgraced. Such, Sir, is the general outline of this Government, and as it is impossible for you during your short stay in Egypt, to discover the secret intrigues of the state, so as to judge which party predominates, you will perhaps think it most prudent to be equally attentive to both. On a future occasion when possessed of full information, and more leisure, I shall probably trouble you with some further observations on this extraordinary government, but I shall conclude the present account with a curious trait of their policy, which has no precedent that I know of in any other country whatever.

The children of the Beys cannot inherit either the rank or the property of their fathers, nor even be appointed to any office which it is deemed proper for a Bey to hold. It is true the Divan after the death of a Bey, appropriates a part of his property to the maintenance of his family, but the remainder goes to his casheef or lieutenant, who generally succeeds both to his office and estate. These casheefs are Georgian or Circassian slaves, whom the Bey has bought

and adopted when young, and of courſe educated with great care and tenderneſs, with a view of leaving them grateful guardians to their orphan children. This law was doubtleſs ſuggeſted to them by their diſlike to monarchy and predilection for a republic; but ſurely it firſt took place during the adminiſtration of ſome childleſs perſon, or the voice of nature would have ſuppreſſed the dictates of policy.

The city of Cairo and its environs as you well know are full of curioſities, but nothing attracted my attention ſo much as the infinite variety of people in the public ſtreets, and yet I could diſcover nothing like an original national character among them. The preſent Egyptians are an heterogeneous mixture of all nations, and having unfortunately retained only the worſt features both of the minds and perſons of their anceſtors, they are in my opinion become the moſt diſagreeable and contemptible nation on earth, bearing no more reſemblance to the former Egyptians, than the preſent ruins do, to their once magnificent buildings.

When you have ſufficiently gratified your curioſity at Cairo you may proceed from thence

to Alexandria by land; but you will go with much greater eaſe, expedition, and ſafety, as far as Roſetto by water. There are two ſorts of boats on the Nile, the one reſembling a Bengal budgerow or barge, and the other ſomewhat like a Moor punkey*, but the generality of Egyptian boats are inferior to thoſe of Bengal, both with reſpect to elegance and accommodation. I took one at Cairo of eighteen oars, in which I arrived at Roſetto in thirty hours, about two-thirds of the men conſtantly rowing whilſt the others ſlept: the banks of the river are covered with well inhabited towns and villages, but as the natives of this part of the country bear not the beſt of characters, and are particularly averſe to Europeans, it will not be prudent to truſt yourſelf among them. It is even thought neceſſary at night, to carry a light in a paper lanthorn, under the tilt or deck of the boat, to ſhew that you are Europeans, and alert; or theſe pirates will ſometimes attack you in hopes of plunder.

* A Bengal budgerow reſembles the barges of the city companies; a Moor punkey is a long narrow boat to row with ten or twenty oars; the former is uſed for travelling up and down the great rivers in Bengal, and the provinces to the north of it; the latter is ſeldom uſed but in coming down with the current, with the aſſiſtance of which, when the river is full, they are ſuppoſed to go at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour.

plunder. Should you come to an anchor you muſt alſo be watchful that they do not ſwim off from the ſhore, and pilfer ſomething out of the boat, at which they are very expert.

The objections againſt going all the way to Alexandria by water, is the ſurf at the Bogaz or mouth of the river at Roſetto, which renders this part of the voyage rather dangerous. It will therefore be better to go on ſhore at Roſetto, and from thence proceed by land, the diſtance is about thirty-three miles. Chriſtians are allowed to make this journey upon camels or mules, and even upon horſes if they will go to the expence of hiring them. If you ſet out from Roſetto about eight o'clock in the evening, you may arrive at Alexandria at day break, which in a moonlight night is the moſt agreeable manner of travelling; for you would thereby avoid the heat of the ſun, which in the middle of the day even in the winter ſeaſon is very unpleaſant.

In adviſing you to travel by night from Roſetto to Alexandria, I do not mean that you ſhould depart from Roſetto the night of your arrival, for if you can ſtay there you will find ſuffi-

ſufficient amuſement for a week at leaſt; not that Roſetto itſelf I believe abounds with antiquities, but there are many modern buildings, in and near the city very well worth ſeeing. It is a place much reſpected by the Mahomedans, who ſay if Mecca was to be taken from them, that the pilgrims who now go thither, would in future viſit Raſhid, i. e. Roſetto; which opinion is probably founded on a tradition that one of Mahomed's neareſt relations, formerly lived, and is now buried at a moſque which is ſituated at the North part of the ſuburbs. The length of this city is near two miles but it is not more than half a mile broad. In the environs of it are many country houſes belonging to Chriſtian merchants whoſe gardens abound with exceeding fine Oranges, and many of the choiceſt fruits of the Eaſt: but what contributes moſt to make it an agreeable reſidence to them, is the liberality and politeneſs of the Mahomedan inhabitants, who notwithſtanding the reputed ſanctity of the place, are particularly civil to the Chriſtians; whereas at Damietta, which is ſituated only on the oppoſite, or peluſian ſide of the Delta, an European cannot appear without a certainty of being inſulted. For this violent antipathy no other reaſon can be aſſigned, but

that

that during the crusades considerable detachments of the Christian armies used to land there, and the accounts of the ravages they committed being transmitted to posterity, has fixed a deep rooted resentment in the minds of the Damiettans, that will never be eradicated as long as those stories are remembered.

European travellers in general complain of the ill treatment they meet with in all the countries of the Levant, but particularly when they are examining the ruins of ancient cities: the jealousy shewn by the Mahomedans on these occasions is always imputed to religious prejudices, or the want of urbanity; but I shall beg leave to account for it in another manner.

It is generally believed by them that all Europeans are deeply versed in the abstruse and occult sciences, which makes them consider us in the same light, as the vulgar and ignorant in Europe consider our fortune tellers or conjurors; that is with a kind of admiration, mixed with fear, and detestation. Added to this prejudice, they are also thoroughly persuaded from the stories they daily hear repeated out of the Arabian Nights Entertainments, that there are

many

many ſubterraneous palaces in their country full of pearls and diamonds, in ſearch of which they ſuppoſe the Europeans are come to Egypt: we always acknowledge that we are looking after curioſities, which ſerves to confirm them in their error; for as they have not the moſt diſtant idea of what we mean by curioſities, they naturally conclude we are looking for the pearls and diamonds ſuppoſed to be concealed in thoſe ſame palaces; which opinion alſo is ſtrongly corroborated by the zeal and anxiety ſhewn by our antiquarians in their reſearches.

As the mean heat of a country is ſaid to be nearly aſcertained by the mean heat of the ſprings; ſo are the genius and character of a nation diſcovered by peruſing their favorite books; for which reaſon I adviſe you by all means to peruſe theſe Arabian Nights Entertainments before you ſet out on your journey. Believe me Sir! they contain much curious and uſeful information. They are by many people erroneouſly ſuppoſed to be a ſpurious production, and are therefore ſlighted in a manner they do not deſerve. They were written as I have already hinted by an Arabian, and are univerſally read, and admired throughout Aſia

by all ranks of men, both old and young: conſidered therefore as an original work; deſcriptive as they are, of the manners and cuſtoms of the Eaſt in general, and alſo of the genius and character of the Arabians in particular; they ſurely muſt be thought to merit the attention of the curious: nor are they in my opinion entirely deſtitute of merit in other reſpects, for although the extravagance of ſome of the ſtories is carried too far, yet on the whole one cannot help admiring the fancy and invention of the author, in ſtriking out ſuch a variety of pleaſing incidents: pleaſing I call them, becauſe they have frequently afforded me much amuſement, nor do I envy any man his feelings, who is above being pleaſed with them; but before any perſon poſitively decides upon the merit of theſe books, he ſhould be eye witneſs of the effect they produce on thoſe who beſt underſtand them. I have more than once ſeen the Arabians on the deſert ſetting round a fire liſtening to theſe ſtories with ſuch attention and pleaſure, as totally to forget the fatigue and hardſhip with which an inſtant before they were entirely overcome. In ſhort Sir! not to dwell any longer on this ſubject, they are in the ſame eſtimation all over Aſia, that the ad-

ventures

ventures of Don Quixote are in Spain; and I am perſuaded no man of any genius or taſte, would think of making the tour of that country, without previouſly reading the works of Cervantes.

About half way between Roſetto and Alexandria you come to a place called Madhia, where at flood tide you muſt croſs over in a ferry boat, but at the ebb you eaſily paſs over on horſeback: near the ferry is a ſerai or reſting place where you can ſleep, but ſhould it be neceſſary for you to paſs a night on the road, you had better go to the town of Aboukeer, which is ſituated on the ſea coaſt, about a mile and a half to the N. W. of the ferry, for the ſerai is open to the weather, and alſo extremely dirty: from Aboukeer, or the ferry, to Alexandria is about ſeventeen miles.

With reſpect to a deſcription of Alexandria and its environs, I ſhall beg leave as before to refer you to Pococke, Norden, and Neibuhr, &c. taking the liberty however in ſome few points to differ from them; and likewiſe to add ſome obſervations that I have not met with in

either of the abovementioned writers, concerning the preſent and alſo the former ſtate of Egypt.

THE Mole of about one thouſand yards in length which was built to form a communication with the iſland of Pharos does not appear to me to have been taken ſufficient notice of by any perſon. As Alexandria was built with a view to commerce, this mole, notwithſtanding ſome appearances of gothic work in the arches, is probably coeval with the foundation of the city. Of what excellent materials then muſt it have been originally compoſed to have reſiſted the beating of the wind and waves for near two thouſand years! Dr. Pococke with great reaſon admires the arched ciſterns under the houſes for the reception of the water of the Nile, of which however there are not more than five or ſix remaining at this time; but in my opinion the ſame labour and expence would have been better beſtowed in lining the canal from the Nile to Alexandria, with the ſame durable materials as thoſe of the Mole; by means of which the city to the end of time would have been amply ſupplied with water; and goods with great eaſe have been tranſported to it, from all parts of Egypt. For want of being lined the banks of the Caliſch

or canal are now fallen in, which is one of the principal cauſes of the decline of the trade, and of courſe of the ruin of the city.

It has long been a favourite opinion amongſt the learned, both ancients and moderns, that the Egyptians were acquainted with the arts and ſciences, when all the other people were in a ſtate of ignorance. We are told they diſcovered geometry in making the diviſions of land, after the annual overflowing of the Nile; that the clearneſs of their atmoſphere enabled them to make aſtronomical obſervations ſooner than other people; and that the fertility of their country gave riſe to trade, by enabling them to ſupply all their neighbours with corn and other neceſſaries of life. Theſe arguments are however more ſpecious than true, for if we owe the diſcovery of geometry to the overflowing of the Nile, of aſtronomy to the clearneſs of the atmoſphere, and of trade to the fertility of the ſoil; in that part of Hindoſtan which is within the tropic, there are ſtill larger rivers which overflow annually, a clearer ſky, and a more fertile ſoil. The Nile only once a year affords a ſupply of water to the countries on its banks, and the ſmall quantity of rain that falls there at

other times, does not furnifh moifture enough to keep up the fmalleft degree of vegetation. Whereas the rivers in Hindoftan, particularly thofe on the coaft of Choromandel, are regularly filled with water twice a year, firft from the rains which fall in June, July and Auguft, in the Balagat mountains, where the fources of thofe rivers lie; and afterwards from the N. E. monfoon or rainy feafon, which continues on the Choromandel coaft during the months of October, November, and December. With refpect to the goodnefs of the climate, or the clearnefs of the atmofphere for the purpofes of aftronomy, there can be no comparifon between Egypt and Hindoftan; for at night during the greater part of the year in Hindoftan there is fcarcely a cloud to be feen in the fky, and the air efpecially in the fouthern countries is never difagreeably cold; fo that an aftronomer would have every opportunity and inducement to purfue his ftudies in the open air: whereas, in Egypt the fky is often cloudy, and the air fo cold as to make it unpleafant to be out of doors after fun-fet.

The Indians had alfo evidently the advantage of the Egyptians with refpect to cloathing,

which

which is one of the neceſſaries, or at leaſt one of the comforts of life; for if we ſuppoſe men firſt cloathed themſelves in the ſkins of animals, India abounds in vaſt foreſts or extenſive fertile plains, where animals of all kind both ſavage and tame, muſt have bred infinitely faſter than in the barren deſerts of upper Egypt; but in a hot country the natives would naturally prefer garments made of woven cotton. Now, the cotton ſhrub is very rare in Egypt, even at this time, and it is well known to have grown in India, and to have been fabricated into cloth, ever ſince we have had any acquaintance with that country. From theſe premiſes, therefore, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that the Indians in the early ages were much more likely to ſupply the Egyptians with neceſſaries and comforts of life, than to be ſupplied by them; that the Indians would at leaſt have as much occaſion for geometry as the Egyptians; and that they had at leaſt equal if not greater advantages for purſuing the ſtudy of aſtronomy. Thus far however all is but conjecture, for we have no tradition or hiſtory of thoſe times, when either the Egyptians or the Indians were in an uncivilized ſtate; but if we purſue the ſubject we ſhall find very evident proofs that when an intercourſe did

did take place between them; that the Egyptians received from Hindoſtan all thoſe articles of luxury, which the Greeks and Romans purchaſed again from them. It would be both tedious and unneceſſary to enumerate all theſe, I ſhall therefore content myſelf with particularizing ſilk, ſpices, pearls, diamonds, and other precious ſtones.

It was formerly ſuppoſed that moſt of theſe articles came from Arabia Felix, but this error has long ſince been exploded. It is now well known they were none of them the produce of Arabia, but were brought thither by veſſels from India, and from thence were carried up the Red Sea, with other productions of that country.

It may perhaps be objected, that the Egyptians and the Arabians are generally ſuppoſed to have known the art of navigation before the Indians, and of courſe that although India may produce ſpices, &c. the Egyptians and Arabians went thither to fetch them. Hiſtory being entirely ſilent on this ſubject we can only endeavour to aſcertain this matter, by ſtating the arguments on both ſides the queſtion.

In all probability before any intercourſe ſubſiſted between the Indians and Egyptians, both people knew how to conſtruct ſmall boats or rather rafts for croſſing deep rivers, and even for tranſporting themſelves by water from one place to another in the ſame country; but at the ſame time it muſt be allowed that the Indians had much better materials for building both ſmall and large boats than either the Egyptians, or even the Arabians; and the boats of the preſent day plainly ſhew in what manner the Indians made uſe of theſe materials. The planks are made of a light boyant pliant wood, ſewed together with coir or the rind of the cocoa nut made into a kind of ſmall cord; all the larger ropes are made of the ſame materials, and even the oars themſelves are formed of one ſtrait pole with a piece of flat board tied upon it with a coir ſtring to form the blade of the oar. The preſent large country boats of forty and fifty tons, eſpecially thoſe belonging to the Lacidivi and Maldivi iſlands are ſtill built in the ſame manner, with no other difference than being on a larger ſcale: with theſe in a fair ſeaſon they make voyages many degrees out of ſight of land; yet nothing of the kind not even the firſt eſſays of the art could have

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been more rude than theſe now are. It is highly probable therefore that as ſoon as they knew the latitude of the ſtreights of Babelmandel, and were furniſhed with inſtruments for making obſervations, they ventured to paſs over from the Malabar coaſt to that of Arabia.

I MAY perhaps be aſked when and how it was they became acquainted with the latitude of theſe ſtreights? that is a difficulty I believe no perſon can ſolve any more than myſelf, but it is poſſible that there was once a chain of iſlands nearly in ſight of each other, from the Malabar coaſt to that of Arabia, moſt of which may have been ſwallowed up in ſome great convulſion of nature, ſo as to leave no remains excepting the iſland of Socotra and thoſe of Lacidivi and Maldivi: but even ſuppoſing no ſuch iſlands to have exiſted, ſtill ſurely as the Indians had good materials for building veſſels, and a ſea to ſail upon that is governed by regular currents and periodical winds, neither of which the Egyptians had; we may rather ſuppoſe that the produce of Hindoſtan was carried to Egypt by the Indians, than that it was fetched away from thence by the Egyptians.

If the Indians required nothing from the Egyptians either of the neceſſaries or comforts of life; if the Egyptians got ſpices and other articles of luxury from India; and if the natives of India were firſt acquainted with the ſcience of aſtronomy and the arts of navigation, all of which I think are probable: it is but reaſonable to ſuppoſe that the arts and ſciences were firſt known in India, and from thence were brought up the Red Sea to Egypt.

I am well aware that the advocates for Egypt will call upon me to produce any remains of antiquity in India ſo ancient as the Pyramids. To theſe gentlemen I ſhall oppoſe one impoſſibility to another, by aſking them to trace back the building of Gour, which ſeven hundred and thirty years before Chriſt was the capital of Bengal; or of the better known Palibothra of the ancients, which was the capital of India, long before Alexander's time. As a further proof that the natives of Hindoſtan were in an advanced ſtate of civilization near two thouſand years ago, I ſhall alſo beg leave to obſerve that a plate of copper was lately dug up at Mongheer, engraved with Shanſcrit characters which contains a conveyance or grant of

land from Bickeram Geet Raja of Bengal to one of his ſubjects, and dated near one hundred years before the Chriſtian æra. To enter into a long detail of reaſoning upon this plate cannot be neceſſary; I am perſuaded Sir, you will in an inſtant conceive how long the arts and ſciences muſt have been known in Hindoſtan, before theſe regular diviſions of land took place, and the grants of them were engraved on copper in ſuch characters as would not diſgrace our moſt ſkilful artiſts even at this time.

The ingenious Mr. Halhed in the preface of his Bengal grammar, informs us that the Raja of Kiſhnagur, who he ſays, is by far the moſt learned and able antiquary, that Bengal has produced within this century, poſitively affirms that he has in his own poſſeſſion Shanſcrit books, which give an account of a communication formerly ſubſiſting between India and Egypt, wherein the Egyptians are conſtantly deſcribed as diſciples, and not as inſtructors of the Indians; and as ſeeking that liberal education, and thoſe ſciences in Hindoſtan, which none of their own countrymen had ſufficient knowledge to impart. This evidence of the learned Raja has great weight with me, eſpecially

cially as there are books now extant in Bengal, written in the Shanſcrit language, which are copies of others ſaid by the Bramins to be dated more than two thouſand two hundred years before the Chriſtian æra. This fact admitted, and I firmly believe it very poſſible to be proved, the Egyptians muſt appear a modern people in compariſon with the natives of Hindoſtan; for when the former were advanced no further in literature, than the conſtructing of hieroglyphicks, the latter were maſters of books written in a language which had then attained a great degree of perfection.

But this is not all that may be urged in favour of the claims of the Indians, ſome further proofs will appear upon examining the general ſtate of commerce at that time all over the globe. In Europe it was very trifling, of America we were totally ignorant; and only a corner of Africa was known; conſequently whatever commerce then exiſted muſt have come from Aſia. About this time there was a chain, or if I may be allowed the expreſſion, a ſtreet of magnificent cities from Coptos to Alexandria, which continued in a flouriſhing ſtate, notwithſtanding the Egyptian empire frequently changed its

Sovereign. Nor from any information I am maſter of, can I find thoſe cities began to decline until the followers of Mahomed transferred the India trade from upper Egypt to the oppoſite coaſt of the Red Sea; then, and not before, Upper Egypt became what it ſtill continues to be, an uninhabited deſert. If theſe facts be true, and I believe they will not be diſputed; we may reaſonably infer from them, that theſe cities of Upper Egypt not only exiſted by the ſupport they derived from that trade; but alſo that they owed their original exiſtence to it. Nor is it Egypt only that has experienced theſe effects of the India trade; whatever nation has poſſeſſed the largeſt ſhare of it, has invariably for the time enjoyed alſo the largeſt portion of wealth and power; and when deprived of it, ſunk again almoſt into their original obſcurity.

When the folly of the cruſades was over, and the remembrance of the injuries ſuſtained on both ſides in ſome meaſure mutually forgotten; the Mahomedans intent only on conqueſt and ſpreading the doctrines of their prophet, allowed the Chriſtians to carry on the trade between Europe and the Levant, which conſiſted principally in tranſporting the India goods from the

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ports of Syria, Paleſtine, and Egypt, to thoſe of Italy. It is well known that the Venetians for a long time engroſſed the greater part of this trade, and whilſt they enjoyed it were the richeſt and moſt powerful people in Europe; we may alſo trace it from Venice to the Hans towns by the cities to which it gave riſe in Germany. But at length the Portugueze diſcovered the paſſage round the Cape of Good Hope, which carried a part of the India trade into another channel; immediately Venice declined, and Portugal became one of the greateſt nations in Europe. They however enjoyed their ſuperiority but a ſhort time, for the enterprizing and induſtrious natives of Holland found their way round the Cape of Good Hope, and very ſoon eſtabliſhed themſelves in India on the ruin of the Portugueze. Whilſt the riches of India flowed into Holland, the Dutch diſputed the empire of the ſeas with the united fleets of England and France. At laſt we obtained a larger portion of this trade than ever was enjoyed by any nation whatever, excepting the Egyptians, and every perſon knows at that period Great Britain gave law to all Europe. Nor does it require the gift of prophecy to be able to foretell, that deprived of this ſource of wealth we

ſhall ſink almoſt as low in the political ſcale of Europe, as either Holland, Portugal, Venice, or even Egypt itſelf. In ſhort, to ſum up the whole of this argument in a few words. If the arts and ſciences conducted by commerce can be traced back from the weſt of Europe to Italy, from thence to Greece, and ſo on eaſtward to Egypt: if India poſſeſſed many natural advantages over Egypt for the production of every article of trade, and alſo for the diſcovery and improvement of every branch of the mathematics: and above all, if we have every reaſon to ſuppoſe that the Shanſcrit or original Indian language had acquired a great degree of perfection, and was written with great regularity, when the Egyptians were only acquainted with the hieroglyphicks: it is but reaſonable to conclude, that the arts and ſciences came by the means of commerce from India to Egypt, in the ſame manner, as they afterwards came from Egypt to Europe. From the weſt part of Europe they have paſſed over to America, where probably they will ſtill continue to purſue the ſame courſe, until they have finiſhed their circuit round the globe, by opening a communication between the two great continents from the weſt of America, to the Eaſt coaſts of Aſia. The further

consideration of this subject would lead me into a long train of political reflections, I shall therefore quit it, and return to what relates to Egypt.

There are great disputes amongst the moderns concerning the exact situation of the ancient city of Berenice, on the west coast of the Red Sea; and also whether or not, there was a navigable canal between that city and Coptos, on the banks of the Nile. If you have leisure to go into Upper Egypt, or can land at Cosire, you perhaps will be glad to know what has been already said on this subject, and also to receive any information I can afford you, concerning that or any other navigable canal between the Red Sea and the Nile.

Both ancient and modern geographers describe the remains of a canal from Suez, to a small lake of brackish water about thirty miles to the north of that place; and from thence to a canal said to have been dug by the order of the Emperor Trajan, which goes from that lake into the Nile a few miles below the city of Cairo: for my own part, I must acknowledge, I saw nothing like a canal near Suez, excepting

a ſmall water courſe, many of which are to be ſeen both in the great and little deſert. With reſpect to that ſaid to have been cut between Berenice and Coptos in the latitude of twenty-ſix in Upper Egypt, I think there is reaſon to doubt its exiſtence. Mr. D'Anville ſeems to think that a road only was made from the Nile to the Red Sea, and that the miſtake aroſe from there being a navigable canal between Coptos and the Nile, from which it was diſtant only ſeven miles. But this great geographer not having entered ſo minutely into this ſubject, as perhaps you may think it deſerves; I ſhall offer a few words to your conſideration in confirmation of his opinion.

THOSE writers who have placed a navigable canal, or a road between the Nile and the Red Sea from modern Ghinna to Coſire; have probably gueſſed that it muſt have been in that ſituation, becauſe it is the ſhorteſt diſtance from the ſea to the river, being in a ſtrait line at moſt one hundred and twenty miles. But admitting any ſuch canal to have exiſted in Upper Egypt, of which there are no traces to be found; it is not very likely it ſhould be cut in that direction; for Coſire being almoſt three degrees beyond the Tropic,

Tropic, the voyage from the Tropic to Cofire, would to the ancients in their ill-conftructed veffels have been practicable during only the continuance of the Khumfeen wind, which as I have before obferved blows for about fifty days in the year: furely then had the Egyptians attempted to make fuch a navigable canal, they would have made it further to the fouthward, near the Tropic, where it would have been ferviceable to them for fix months in the year; that is, fomewhere near to the fpot where Ptolemy and others have placed the ancient city of Berenice. Dr. Pococke, who does not feem to have adverted to this circumftance of the N. W. wind prevailing fo long below Cofire; thinks that Ptolemy is miftaken in his latitude of Berenice, becaufe Strabo who had vifited Upper Egypt, places Berenice near Coptos; the word near however being only a relative term, may equally mean one hundred, or two hundred and fifty-eight miles; and therefore cannot be deemed any proof that Berenice fhould have been exactly in the fame parallel of latitude with Coptos. The fituation of Coptos is not difputed; and as Ptolemy, and many of the moft refpectable geographers have made the diftance from thence to Berenice near two hundred and fifty-eight

 miles,

miles, moſt perſons perhaps, will be of opinion that Berenice was ſituated in what is called Foul Bay, to the ſouthward of Cape Noſe, and within a few miles of the Tropic. Ptolemy Philadelphus made a road from the one city to the other, in which he cauſed wells to be dug, and what would now in the Eaſt be called Caravanſaries to be erected; but of which I have been informed no veſtiges are now viſible. This road has alſo by ſome people been miſtaken for a canal, but I ſhall offer ſome objections to your conſideration againſt the probability of any canal having been made between this part of the Nile, and the Red Sea.

The canal muſt have been ſupplied with water either from the river, or from the ſea. If from the river, ſuch a diſcharge from that body of water muſt even in the beſt ſeaſon have deprived Lower Egypt of too large a quantity of this only ſource of its fertility: and in a dry ſeaſon, which happens at leaſt every fourth or fifth year, muſt have occaſioned a famine; for as I have before mentioned the rain never falls there in ſufficient abundance to keep up the ſmalleſt degree of vegetation.

IF

If the canal was to be ſupplied with water from the Red Sea, an extraordinary ſpring tide, or a ſtorm might have broken down the locks, and thereby overflowed Lower Egypt, ſo as to render it a mere ſalt-water lake: but at leaſt the mixture of the ſalt with the freſh water would have made it unfit for the purpoſes of huſbandry, and beſides the major part of the inhabitants have no other freſh water than what comes from the Nile. If then the Egyptians could not cut a canal without ruining their country, or depriving themſelves of a requiſite ſupply of water for domeſtic uſes, we may reaſonably conclude they never would have made the attempt and thereby expatriated themſelves. Thus Sir! having made all the obſervations on Egypt that occur to me, or at leaſt ſuch as will come within the narrow compaſs of a letter; I ſhall next conſider what meaſures you muſt take to proceed from Alexandria to Europe.

The time and manner of your departure from Alexandria muſt entirely depend upon the plan which you have laid down; that is, whether you intend to go directly to England; or whether you propoſe to travel leiſurely; and make a tour

of pleaſure: You will hardly think of going to Europe all the way by land through Paleſtine, Syria, Aſia Minor, &c. I ſhall therefore mention what ſteps you are to take in going by ſea.

Your agent will eaſily procure you a veſſel on freight to carry you to any of the ports in Europe, which you may have on reaſonable terms if you will allow them alſo to put a cargo on board; and it will be no inconvenience to you, provided you ſpecify the particular port to which you are bound; and the veſſel is afterwards put under your orders.

Of all the nations that frequent this port, I ſhould adviſe you to employ Raguſians. Their veſſels are ſtrong and well-found; their ſeamen are ſober, cleanly, and civil; and their republic is generally at peace with all the different ſtates of Barbary. Next to theſe in time of peace, I ſhould prefer the French, who carry on a conſiderable trade here, and employ in it very large ſhips; there are but very few Engliſh veſſels, and theſe are generally ſmall and in bad condition.

If you are in hafte to get home, it is beft to freight the fhip for two months to carry you to any port in the Adriatic or the Mediterranean, and then it will be in your own power to choofe one of thofe places where the quarantine is fhort, viz. Malta, Marfeilles, Ragufa, or Triefte: at all thefe ports with a pattenta netta, or clean bill of health, the confinement is only eighteen days. I would advife you to fteer for Malta; but if the wind comes to the weftward after you have paffed Candia, and before you fee Malta, you fhould then attempt to pafs by the Pharo Meffina in the way to Marfeilles, or elfe to enter the Adriatic and fail for Triefte. When you are advanced up the Adriatic, fhould the wind come round to the N. W. the port of Ragufa will be under your lee; from whence after performing quarantine, you may land in any part of Italy. Before you embark at Alexandria, the Conful who acts as your agent, at the fame time he difpatches the fhip, gives you a feparate certificate or bill of health for yourfelf. If you propofe making a voyage of pleafure without being reftricted in time, and can depart from Alexandria in the month of February, you will of courfe firft vifit the Archipelago; where in the different iflands you will find

find an inexhaustible fund of amusement. It will be very easy in the course of four months to go to Constantinople, calling in the way at all the places on the East side of the Archipelago that are worth seeing; and afterwards when you are going to Italy, to visit those on the West. I am extremely sorry it is not at present in my power to give you a particular description of all these islands, but at Alexandria you will easily obtain every kind of information concerning them that you can require. In your return from Constantinople, after passing the N. W. end of Candia, if you will wish to see the South part of Italy, and the island of Sicily, it will be necessary for you to perform your quarantine at Malta; but as the Sicilians suffered dreadfully from the plague in the year 1743, I am not certain that you can go from Malta to any part of that island, without being detained some days on board the ship. At Messina where the plague raged with its greatest violence, they often impose a quarantine of seven days, even on those who come from the opposite coast of Calabria; but the Neapolitans are not so scrupulous, therefore having got Pratique from Malta you may land in that city.

The time ſpent in viſiting Conſtantinople and the iſlands in the Archipelago, and alſo in performing quarantine, will bring you to Naples in July or Auguſt, which indeed is not the moſt favorable ſeaſon; but that cannot be avoided, unleſs you prolong your ſtay at Conſtantinople or the iſlands, ſo as to arrive at Naples in September or October, which is exactly the plan I ſhould moſt recommend, for by this little delay, you will have full time to examine countries, which are in the higheſt degree worthy of your attention: you will be able to paſs the winter moſt agreeably at Naples; and you will have all the following ſpring and ſummer for your journey through Italy and France to England; the warmth of the ſun increaſing, as you advance towards the North.

And now Sir! having conducted you to the continent of Europe, I ſhall beg leave to conclude; not however without aſſuring you that if neceſſary, I ſhall be happy to afford you any further information in my power, and alſo that I am,

S I R,

With great reſpect,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
Nov. 29, 1780.

JAMES CAPPER.

A JOURNEY FROM CONSTANTINOPLE to VIENNA,

BY

GEORGE BALDWIN, Esq; &c.

WE hired a coach, an old cast-off fiacre, to carry us from Constantinople to Vienna, with four horses to draw it; two horses to carry our baggage, a janizary to protect us, and a serugee or post-boy to conduct us. We began the journey on the 28th of September, 1780, upon a Thursday, from Mr. Willis's house in the village of Belgrade; Mr. Willis and his brother Stuart accompanying us part of the way. In eight hours we arrived at ponte Picolo or Cutchuk Chickmagee, and were joined by Dr. Lucci;

we lodged in a new conak pretty well accommodated: in fact our bed furniture we carried with us, and it consisted of nothing but a carpet, two small square cushions to set on, and two cushions to lean or lay our heads on, as our inclination might prompt, and a quilt to cover us. On Friday the 29th of September in the morning we departed; all the way on our journey the same objects were varied by different aspects; the country hilly on the right, and on our left, the sea. In three hours we arrived at Buyuk Chikmagee or ponte grande, a much pleasanter situation than ponte Picolo. Breakfasted, and in five hours more got to Silivria, this town which is considerable, is situated on the declivity and summit of a hill, has five mosques, and an ancient Greek church with inscriptions, which the Priest could not interpret. We remained here till Saturday morning eight o'clock (30th September) when our friends left us. This separation did not a little disturb us; Mrs. B—— who for the first time in her life now found herself bereaved of all her acquaintance but myself, and just leaving those she had great reason to esteem, was totally overwhelmed. The very fine country we passed had no attractions for her, and gloomy and sad we went

through

through this day's journey, a ſeven hours march to Chio Oglu. In this ſtate of mind we took up our lodging at a ſpacious and once magnificent conak, when an occurrence happened that excited our curioſity, a paſſion that is not to be ſtifled by affliction. The Devan Effendi of Wallachia made his appearance with a ſuit of a dozen carriages, and a long cavalcade of more than an hundred horſes. He is an officer appointed by the Porte to co-officiate with the prince of Wallachia in cauſes wherein Turks and ſubjects are concerned; the ſupreme power being veſted in the prince, who is a Greek, and appointed by the Porte. This and the principality of Moldavia are the only veſtiges I know of the ancient Greek dominions; the Greek language is ſpoken at court, and all the inſtruments of government are drawn up in that language. On the road from this place, whence we departed at five o'clock (1ſt October) Sunday morning, we met a much more conſiderable train attending the ſiſter of the reigning princeſs of Wallachia, and related to the druggaman of the Porte. This dignity ſo ſounding is but of a precarious tenure, ſince the Porte have upon a late occaſion aſſumed and exerciſed the unexampled prerogative of depoſing and beheading the

the prince. The country is hilly, and well interſperſed with villages and trees, the road good; we loſt ſight of the ſea on the preceding day. In ten hours we arrived at Burgas, a large village with a conſiderable moſque in it; as yet no ſickneſs on the way, but we heard reports of the plague raging at Adrianople. The people were collected at the entrance of the town, with tents pitched and muſic playing, to celebrate their feſtival of Bairam with dancing and ſongs. The Turks faſt during the whole moon of Ramazan, by a ſtrict abſtinence from meat or drink, or any thing ſenſual, from ſun-riſe to ſun-ſet; but many of them indulge in pleaſures during the night. At the end of the Ramazan, or rather upon the appearance of the new moon of Bairam, they celebrate a feſtival of three days, cloathing themſelves entirely new, and giving into every amuſement that a people characterized for temperance and ſobriety may be ſuppoſed to indulge in.

We reſted at this conak till five next morning (2d October) and then purſued our journey. The road is very good and pleaſant, but hilly; on the way for hours together, to the right and left, we ſaw ſwarms of Locuſts, myriads; the

atmoſ-

atmofphere was darkened with them; it was their coupling time. The male was diftinguifhable, being of a fine yellow colour, and the female of a dark brown. This may be confidered as their laft ftage, they take flight, and falling in their paffage, they depofit their eggs half an inch in the ground, and die. The invincible fuperftition of the Turks in all their metaphyfical tenets, makes them as blind in their tolerance of this evil, which they could eafily prevent; as they are in neglecting every precaution againft the effects of the plague; but they fay, "What God has decreed, muft be fulfilled." We arrived at Affsa at four o'clock in the evening, a village only four hours diftant from Adrianople, or Aderne, as the Turks now call it. No plague here, and from the information our janizary brought us, it had ceafed at Adrianople. Our room was fmall and low, and part of one fide of an old fquare building, having a gallery within, tumbling almoft in its laft ftage of ruin. A mofque ftands in the center of the yard, and near it is a bafon of water furrounded by fome trees, it was juft enough to keep us from the fpleen. As we did not credit the laft accounts we had heard of the plague having ceafed at Adrianople, we confequently determined

mined not to go near it. On Tuesday morning therefore (3d October) at sun-rise, taking our departure, we made a tour to a ferry below the city, and in an hour and a half arrived at Caragatch, the summer retreat of the French merchants established at Adrianople. We were seen as we entered the village by a Monf. Terrasson, and conducted by him to his own house, the abode of genuine indiscriminate hospitality, even to strangers, and those of a country hostile to his own. The condition of one of our horses made it necessary that we should get another, and retarded us in this place all that day, and the next. We were visited by Monf. Meynard, his mother, sister, and brother, who expressed themselves concerned that we had not fallen to their lot; but they made us all dine with them on Wednesday. Monf. D'Argus also would have vied with his compatriots, if time and his own misfortunes had not made it impossible; enfin, *c'etoit la benediction de Dieu.* They were as happy as they made us, and I never was more so in my life. We were near the plain of Demstica, and the village of Demirbash, renowned in the history of Charles XII. of Sweden. We walked over this theatre of his extravagant exploits with a kind of reverential delight.

delight: now a ſcene of paſtoral tranquillity, ſcarcely inhabited, and but little heeded.

Returning to the village with our amiable party, we were curious to know the nature and object of their ſettlement at Adrianople. Trade I know to be their purſuit, but we enquired after its foundation and reſources. They ſupply the city and its environs with the various produce of Europe, which is conveyed to them from Conſtantinople; either directly by land, or from Rhadoſto, whither it is conveyed by boats; and from Smyrna by the port of Envi, in the Egean ſea, and thence up the river Marizza to Adrianople. Their conſumption is conſiderable, and in return one of their greateſt articles of exportation is hare ſkins, which they buy as a ſubſtitute for the Canadian beaver; and ſend to the number of between three and four hundred thouſand annually to France. I was aſtoniſhed at this ſurprizing nurſery of hares, but the account is certainly founded in truth. Bred in Wallachia and the intermediate tract of land, they are driven in large parties by the ſeverity of the winter, down to the plains: the ſnow with which the ground is covered betrays their

haunts to the hunter, and thus they are eafily enfnared.

We had a view of the city of Adrianople, in which there appears fome magnificent mofques and other public buildings. It extends a confiderable way along the river Marizza, juft after it has been joined by the Arfa and Tunja, and from thence rifing in a gradual afcent, the greateft part of the city is feen on an elevation, which impreffes a very advantageous idea of its beauty and importance upon the traveller's mind. The plague was preying at that very time upon the lives of its inhabitants, and forbad our nearer approach. Notwithftanding we did not go thither ourfelves, we were not free from very well founded apprehenfions of the danger we intended to avoid; for our conductors had been into the city, and in company with the people of it; they had been cautious they faid, but our reliance was in the mercy of Providence.

As we came to a crofs road in the fkirts of the city on our way from Affsa, we faw upon an eminence a man erect upon a ftake, at the height of three feet at leaft from the ground;

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he had been impaled, and was placed there in terrorem to others. It is not a very unuſual ſight in the dominions of the Turks.

On Thurſday, the 5th of October, we took our leave of Carragatch, but our French friends would attend us part of the way; they muſt ſee us acroſs a river we had to ford at a dangerous place; we knew nothing of the river, and therefore a cart upon much higher wheels than our coach being about to paſs, we got into it, and took our baggage with us leaving the coach to follow. We got over dry and ſafe, but our coach was nearly loſt. Our friends ſwam their horſes over with us, and after that inſtance of their very cordial attention, and politeneſs; bid us adieu, and returned. We ſtaid to ſee them ſafe on the other ſhore again; made ſigns of our ſatisfaction and gratitude, and went heavily on. We forded and were ferried ſeveral different times in this day's march, which laſted eight hours over a beautiful country, and at length brought us to a Bulgarian village called Hebibchay. We had been joined at Carragatch by two Greek prieſts who begged the favour of our protection on their journey to Belgrade, to which we had no objection. We

refted in a Chriftian's hut, nothing more than mud walls four feet from the ground, and thatched. We flept here, for the firft time, on the ground; that is, on our carpet fpread upon the ground. The language of thefe people is the Bulgar, fomething of the Illyric. We could not underftand it, all our entertainment therefore was derived from our fight; the women appear hardy, and do not conceal themfelves. We made a good fire in our hut, forgot the humility of our lot, and in defiance of vermin, paffed the night in fome degree of comfort.

On Friday at fun-rife (6th October) we left this place, and paffing over a very fine hilly country in fight of the river, in eight hours we arrived at Armanak, where a magnificent khan was originally built for the accommodation of the troops, and now affording a fhelter for travellers. We however, after a flight repofe, continued on to Semiky, a Bulgarian town, which we reached at fun-fet. The women flocked to fee Mrs. B——, and viewing her with a great deal of aftonifhment, I afked one of them what was the reafon of their wonder? fhe anfwered, to fee a woman who had never done

done work. There was ſo much ſimplicity and ſo much ignorance of a ſtate of refinement in this anſwer, as to diſpoſe us to bear with their importunities. The Bulgarian families intermarry, unite, and make common cauſe. The cuſtom is for the huſband to live in the paternal houſe of his wife, and their numbers accumulate in ſome families beyond credibility. We bought a ſucking pig for twenty paras, or one ſhilling; and one of our ſacerdotal companions undertook to dreſs it, as he did alſo to interpret for us, in which we were ſometimes at a loſs. We had not diſcovered all his merit till this day, perhaps not all then. Our bed was again upon the ground.

On Saturday morning at ſun-riſe (7th October) we renewed our journey, and paſſing by ſome villages and over a fine country, arrived at four in the evening, at Papaſquoi. This village is ſituated in the plain of Philipopoli (by the Turks called Phillibey) near a ſmall ſtream, which makes it pleaſant. Our nocturnal accommodation as uſual; but the vermin rather more importunate; fatigue however is an irreſiſtable opiate, and we got a proper portion of ſleep.

On

On Sunday at ſun-riſe (8th October) we renewed our march for Philipopoli; in half an hour we came in ſight of the city, it being ſituated on a rock leading to it over a plain, the river Marizza meandering by it, and fertilizing and beautifying the country in its way. Rice grows in great abundance in this plain, and good in quality. There were numbers of waggons going to and fro upon the various roads in the plain; and gave ſigns of an activity, and induſtry, which is very unuſual in the other parts of the Turkiſh dominions. The fact is, a conſiderable iron mine in the neighbourhood, gives employment to all theſe convoys of waggons, and the character and conſtitution of the people is more ſuitable to commerce, than in the province we were leaving behind us. We entered Philipopoli at eleven o'clock, and had to aſcend a very narrow and ſteep road to the reſidence of Sig. Demetrio Khiro, a Greek, with whom we took the liberty to ſojourn. This gentleman is a Raija, or Chriſtian tributary of the Grand Signior, but protected by a barat, or privilege of exemption, allowed to the Ambaſſadors of the Porte. Every Ambaſſador is complimented with the privilege of giving protections to the number of thirty-two as ſervants,

but

but they are ſometimes ſold to the rich Raijas for conſiderable ſums. Signor Khiros's houſe is ſpacious, very pleaſantly ſituated upon the ſummit of the rock, and commanding a beautiful view of the plain beneath, watered by three rivers, the Arta, Tunja, and Marizza, juſt as they are approaching to a junction in the vicinity of Adrianople. Our hoſt himſelf was a conſiderable trader in red cotton yarn, which he ſends in large quantities to Ruſſia, in leſſer to Germany. There is alſo a large conſumption here of India piece goods, ſupplied by the company of Armenians, at Conſtantinople; nor are theſe the only conſiderable objects of ſpeculation. We tarried all this day Monday the 9th of October, and on Tueſday the 10th at eight o'clock in the morning we reſumed our journey.

One of the hind wheels of our coach had been newly hooped, and other reparations made ſo as to give us greater confidence in our vehicle we began to deſcend the rock. In iſſuing from the town, we immediately found ourſelves on a very long bridge over the Marizza, which having paſſed, our way lay between fields of rice, juſt gathering and treading out. In ſix

hours

hours we arrived at Bazarjeek, a large town on the plain confpicuous by reafon of its mofques and gilded domes, and admirable for the beauty of its fituation. We were lodged in the bifhop's palace, and from a * Kiofk to the weftward, commanded the fineft view of a campania without exception in my knowledge, that this country affords. Clofe under our window ran a gentle ftream, and further on united with the main body of the river. Near the junction is a wooden bridge, enlivened by a conftant concourfe of people on foot or on horfe back, and with carriages, inceffantly paffing and repaffing. The view extends over this plain or rather beautiful lawn, which is pleafingly interfperfed with clumps of trees, to the foot of the Balkan mountain; thence gradually afcending, and difplaying a diverfified fcene of ruftic art and nature, ftill enchanting to the very top. Near this town is the mine of iron I have fpoken of, which is faid to be very productive. It is open to the induftry of every adventurer, the fultan takes no heed of it; why he permits others to work it, is a myftery to thofe who know the principles of his government not to be explained; but cer-

* A Turkifh fummer-houfe.

tain it is any one may enjoy the fruits of it. On Wednesday morning (11th October) at sun-rise we left this town, but the same scene was before us, we proceeded along the plain, drawing gradually to a Cul de Sac, and in two hours came to rising grounds, constantly increasing in acclivity towards the summit, and near the top growing extremely difficult and steep. At four in the evening, without any accident, we reached Palanka, a Turkish village of three houses, on the summit of the Balkan, and took our station for the night. Our best choice was the common stable, and very calmly and contentedly we took up with it; spread our carpet, and patiently submitted to this hard, but sometimes necessary lot of travellers. Before night came on however, we amused ourselves with walking about the hills; observed some vestiges of an ancient tower, collected some wood for kindling a fire, and when tired withdrew to rest. We got over the apparent hardships of our situation, and at sun-rise were well recruited for prosecuting our next day's adventures. Thursday the 12th October, we set off to compleat our passage over the mountain, leaving a horse behind, worn out with toil. This Balkan, which I have heard so often talked of, as

the impaſſible barrier and defence of the Turkiſh dominions in Europe; is, if no better barrier is to be oppoſed to the power of their neareſt neighbour, in my opinion, a bad dependence indeed. From the ſummit, beginning the deſcent, is ſeen a beautiful meadow, and about its center a town, with a ſingle moſque in it, called Iſternam. We arrived there at noon, and dined; but thought fit to force our march to a village, four hours further, in order to reach Sophia with more certainty and eaſe, in the courſe of the next day. Our horſes were the worſe for it, we got however to Bakreglee, a town in Servia. This place is ſituated among ſome oak plantations, upon the hills, at a diſtance from the road. The people are robuſt, and thought rude, but they ſeem to poſſeſs their competency. In departing from this horde the next morning (Friday 13th October) we had to deſcend a moſt rugged and unbeaten tract of road, and could only have paſſed ſafely over it with the aſſiſtance of a dozen of theſe ruſtics, which they readily afforded us. It employed us two hours, when we were brought in view of the valley of Sophia. It exhibits a very charming proſpect, as the ſoil is rich, and covered with a delightful verdure;

dure; ſeveral villages contribute to adorn the proſpect, and beyond all, the city of Sophia. The mountain of Vetoſa, well known for its minerals, and the river riſing from its bowels; make two additional and intereſting objects in this landſcape. When the rains are heavy, a variety of metallic ores, and often of pure gold, are brought down by the torrent. A ſpring of hot water runs through the city, and is converted into a bath, for the conveniency of the inhabitants. Upon converſing with the archimandrite on the ſubject of the gold mine, he aſſured me, that eight villages gained a conſtant ſubſiſtence from ſifting the ſands brought down by the rains, and frequently were found among them precious ſtones of conſiderable value. Such a treaſure offering to the eager avidity of the Turk, made it a matter of wonder to me, how the officers of the Porte ſhould neglect it; and begging the prieſt to inform me of the reaſon of it, he ſolved it in the following manner. Their avidity, he ſaid, reſpecting this matter, was the cauſe of their reaping no advantage from it, for the workmen being too poorly paid for their labour, concealed the fruits of it, and would take no pains to multiply their diſcoveries. The officers alſo, who were

employed in collecting these riches, were too much tempted by the facility of enriching themselves, to be true to their trust; and representing the deficiences which were caused by their infidelity, to the poverty of the mine; laid government under the necessity of abandoning the pursuit. So true it is, that in a matter of first moment to all governments, and in which the spirit of Turkish prerogative can know no bounds, but indulges every species of violence; the want of judgment defeats their aim. No circumstance in the history of Turkish ministry, can give so strong a proof of the insufficiency of their system, as this: they cannot gather, where nature has profusely bestowed her gifts; but like true despots, cut down the tree, to get at the fruit—It is the nature of all despotism.

We left Sophia, on Saturday (14th October) at sun-rise, and our journey lay along a fine country, exhibiting all over the face of it, quite to the road side, an exuberance of wild strawberry plants, which owing to the clemency of the season, were generally in blossom. In six hours we got to Kul Kallah, and halted to recruit our horses for a march of six hours farther.

ther. There is a large khan in this place, but decaying faſt. We proceeded in an hour, and ſoon penetrated among the mountains; our road lying through a chaſm, apparently formed by ſome ſtrong convulſion of nature. The road was bad, we therefore could proceed but ſlowly, and conſequently it was late and dark when we arrived at Sari Buroot, where we ſlept. The next morning, Sunday (15th October) at ſunriſe we departed, and paſſed over a hilly country in about four hours to Sharquoi, where we were well entertained. Our room was by the ſide of a priſon, where a dozen of gypſies were chained together by the neck; men and women indiſcriminately, in order to extort a tribute from them. We reſted two hours, and continued our journey over hills, to Ak-Palanka. In this laſt ſtage we met the courier going to Conſtantinople, and were happy by his means, to ſend ſome tidings of our progreſs to our friends. Our lodging at this place was worſe than uſual, and made us very impatient for the return of day.

On Monday the 16th October at day break we reſumed our journey. The firſt part of it was over mountains and bad roads to Banaquoi, where

where we dined, and in one hour and a half more arrived at the biſhop's palace at Niſha. Another horſe worn out; the other three almoſt exhauſted, and requiring reſt. The biſhop received us with infinite politeneſs and urbanity; wiſhed us to ſtay a week with him, and did every thing in his power to engage us to comply with his requeſt. He preſſed us to attend divine ſervice the next morning at his church, promiſing to officiate himſelf by way of giving an air of ſolemnity to the occaſion, and in every reſpect took great pains to entertain and honour us. His name is Maccarius, nearly allied to the reigning prince of Wallachia. He has travelled into Ruſſia and pretends to a perfect knowledge of the ancient Greek literature. The women here wear caps in the ſhape of helmets, compoſed of quantities of paras*, ſtrung together into that form. This is the capital of great Servia. We left it on Wedneſday morning (18th October) at eight o'clock, and in two hours entered the ſkirts of the famous wood of Belgrade: during the courſe of this day's march, the appearance of the country was ſometimes open, ſometimes cloſed in

* A ſmall Turkiſh coin.

with wood. We dined at Aliksinsa, six hours ride from Nissa, and went four hours further on to Reisna. The road was tolerably good; but the sky grew cloudy and threatened us with rain; a circumstance of all things most to be dreaded in the wood, as the roads in that case are rendered almost impassible. We reached Reisna however before it began, but soon after, and during the whole night, it never ceased for a moment. We were under a very bad roof, in a large barn or stable, in a kind of watch loft, and with the prospect of being detained there, most unpleasantly situated indeed. It cleared up in the morning (Thursday 19th October) and we set off, but the roads were deep, our horses sulky, our tackling bad, and every thing cross. With the utmost difficulty, we arrived in six hours, after breaking our coach pole, and much of our harness, to Parakin; four hours short of the appointed place; where we took up our night's abode: all this while in the wood. The sky grew serene and a strong wind arose which continued all night, very much to our advantage, and on Friday morning (20th October) before sun-rise, we again pursued our journey. In two hours we reached a town on the river Morva, and ferried over it,

and immediately entered the thick of the wood leading to Zaghadina, where we dined, and afterwards to Bagherdena, to paſs the night. This day's journey of eight hours, was over conſiderable hills, covered with lofty oak; but as the weather proved fine, the journey was not ſo gloomy and diſagreeable, as it would otherwiſe have been. Next morning, Saturday, 21ſt October, we ſet off again early, and marched ſtill through the wood to Haſſan Baſha Palanka, where we paſſed the night; and on Sunday, 22d October, as early as poſſible, proceeded by Golan and Krotzka to Zweybruchen, where we ſlept. On Monday morning, 23d October, by eleven o'clock, we arrived at Belgrade. Our janizary had preceded us to get the Baſha's paſſport, for leave to paſs the confines, and met us by the ſide of the Danube, with a Junk, prepared to take us acroſs to Semlin. We got there at about one o'clock the ſame day, and reſorted immediately to the place allotted for our quarantine.

We had letters of introduction to the Baron de Sturm, commandant of Semlin; and he and his lady did us the honour of a viſit the ſame after-

afternoon, offering us every aſſiſtance and indulgence, the nature of our confinement would admit of.

SEMLIN is a ſmall town, ſituated upon the peninſula, between the rivers Danube and Sava, juſt at the conflux of both, and immediately oppoſite the town of Belgrade, which has been the theatre of ſome of the great exploits of prince Eugene.

The Lazzaretto or infirmary, is upon a low point of land neareſt to the river; having the town at the back of it. The rooms are ſufficient for the accommodation of paſſengers, but unavoidably damp and unhealthy, they are warmed by ſtoves, which make another inconvenience equally intolerable; for the air ſo rarified by a heat impregnated with the metallic properties of the ſtove, fell directly upon our lungs, and nearly ſuffocated us; which obliged us to renounce our fires.

THE weather towards the firſt part of our time in this place was fine, and we had liberty to make ſhort excurſions into the country, in a carriage or on foot, upon promiſe of obſerving

the ſtricteſt diſtance from all we met, and having a guard to accompany us. We were too eager of this privilege for our good, for walking too far on a cold day, to ſee a fiſhing party; Mrs. B—— was ſeized with an illneſs, which, in its conſequences, embittered our journey the whole way from Semlin to Vienna.

The Lazzaretto, which is built upon a large ſpot of ground, and is very ſpacious, is generally pretty well filled with merchandize imported from Turky.

During our ſtay we were variouſly entertained; a fair was to be held, juſt upon our terminating the quarantine, and people were aſſembled to attend it of all denominations, and from very diſtant parts. There was among the reſt, a company of itinerant merchants, that had wandered from the mountain of Tirrol; uniting at the ſame time, their mercantile and muſical talents, and blending and improving them both for the common good. This company came to our quarters in the lazzaretto, and entertained us with their muſic. A woman accompanied them upon the harp, and the whole party playing upon various inſtruments,

and having a good choice of airs gave us compleat ſatisfaction. It coſt us two florins, and they were ſatisfied.

HAVING performed our three weeks quarantine we were happy to quit immediately the cold and comfortleſs ſituation we were in, for an appartment offered us by the director of the quarantine in his own dwelling. Mrs. B—— had been very ill for ſeveral days with a fever, and was yet in a very critical ſtate. We ſpent a few days in this ſituation with very little ſign of her amendment, and at length reſolved to ſet off. We bought a four-wheeled chaiſe of the director, but the body nothing more than that of a common whiſky, old and impaired in every part of it. We left Semlin in the rain and were from ten o'clock in the morning, till ten at night, creeping and plunging along before we got to a place of ſhelter. We were to have been conveyed in ſix hours to Peterwaradin, and inſtead of that, with joy we put up with a room in a cabaret at Petſche almoſt overflowed with rain. It had a long table in it, ſuch as is found in the moſt wretched of public houſes, and thereon I ſpread our carpet, Mrs. B—— being reduced to make

it her bed for the reſt of the night. I for my part laid myſelf down upon the bench by the ſide of it, ſummoning to my aid all the patience and reſignation that was wanted to endure a ſituation ſo full of complicated diſtreſs. We ſet out as early as we could next day and arrived at Peterwaradin about twelve o'clock at noon; Mrs. B—— continued very ill, but being houſed at a tolerable auberge, we ſent for a phyſician to preſcribe for her. She reſted all that day and night, and next morning had ſpirits enough to deſire to go forward but with the fever ſtill upon her, the weather was rather finer and we ventured on. The roads were ſo bad it was with difficulty we got along; our way lay for the moſt part by the Danube ſide. We got to Gloſhan where we changed horſes and went on to Kerakatſch; but here they detained us ſix hours while the horſes could be got; they were conveying wood for the poſt maſter. The weather was fine which heightened our chagrin beyond bearing, and the indifference of the people at the poſt houſe almoſt drove us to deſpair: at length they made their appearance and we got to the next ſtage Patſch. We had no long delay here, but our horſes were very unwilling to get on. They carried us

through

through the town, and near a mile beyond it, but in croſſing a bridge of looſe timber laid acroſs a deep ditch, they turned ſo ſhort as to bring one of the hind wheels of our chaiſe upon the timber ends, and canted them up, ſo as nearly to overſet us in the ditch. I ſaw the danger before we came exactly upon it, and jumped out with Mrs. B—— juſt in time to eſcape the fall. I ſtopt the poſtilion inſtantly, and by jumping into the ditch, and putting props under the timber ends, the carriage got ſafe over the bridge and we remounted. We had not gone far however before our horſes became reſtive, and turning out of the road, ran us into a bog cloſe by the ſide of the Danube; every effort to get out for many hours was vain, but at length with the aſſiſtance of two additional horſes, and the preſence of the poſt maſter himſelf we got back to the poſt houſe, where the woman of the houſe did all ſhe could to relieve and comfort us. She made Mrs. B—— ſome broth, and gave up her own bed for the whole night. The next morning early we were able to proceed, and endeavoured to recover our chaiſe and baggage which we had been obliged to leave ſticking in the mud expoſed to be plundered by the firſt paſſenger. We

made

made ſeveral attempts to drag the carriage back, but the horſes were unequal to it. It had ſettled at leaſt four feet in the mud, ſo that we could not move it for ſeveral hours. It was Sunday morning, and ſome very ſtout peaſants, a dozen at leaſt, paſſing to the town to church, I begged their aid and offered them money: they ſat their ſhoulders to it, and relieved us at once; having got us into the right way again, one of them taking Mrs. B—— into his arms, carried her over the bad road to the carriage. We thanked them as our deliverers, gave them what contented them, and were glad to get on again. We got to Novaſella and from thence to Vukovar; we had no proviſion with us, nor could we aſk for any, but by ſigns; we walked into the poſt-maſter's kitchen at Vukovar, though it was otherwiſe no public houſe, and there being ſeveral pipkins on the fire with ſoups and ſtews, we expreſſed a deſire to partake of them. The cook-maid who ſaw us and underſtood us very well, was inflexible to our demands; all that we could get of her for an anſwer was *nix, nix*; I therefore helped myſelf, and before Mrs. B—— could get the ſoup to her lips, ſhe fainted in my arms; this ſcene excited the woman's compaſſion, and with the

relief

relief ſhe brought, we were in an hour or two, enabled to proceed. Our next ſtage was Eſſek, but we had yet to ſurmount many difficulties: the way lay over a wide common, and night coming on, we got out of the road, and went round, and round, for hours in the ſame circle; at length we heard the ſound of horſes feet, by the direction of which, we were once more put into the high road: about three o'clock in the morning we got into the town, and were carried to a lamentable beerhouſe, where we were glad to find a place of reſt. Mrs. B—— had ſuffered the utmoſt agonies during this journey, and was apparently breathing her laſt. At day light I ſallied forth to get ſome aſſiſtance, and the poſt-maſter being near, I recommended myſelf to him. He had a good houſe, and very humanely offered to accommodate me with a room, and the domeſtic comforts that his family afforded; I very happily embraced it, and returning to Mrs. B——, took her in my arms, and removed her to this hoſpitable dwelling. The name of the poſt-maſter to whom we were ſo much indebted, was Francolaki; I got proper medical advice, and every other deſirable aſſiſtance, and was happy enough, on the 17th day, to ſee the fever which had

never intermitted, compleatly dislodged. We were visited and invited by the commandant of the place; General Mattheisan and several of the officers and their ladies, and were enabled in a few days, to leave the place, full of gratitude and admiration of the benevolent treatment and hospitality of the good people of Essek. We exchanged our carriage here, and again pursued our route. The post from hence to Vienna are as follows: from Essek to Baraniwar, the roads were deep and very bad; next to Siclos, to Funffkirken; to Geosziget, to Istvandi, to Babosea, to Presnitz, to Iharos, to Canisea, to Kahath, to Szala Egessek, to Kerment, to Stein, to Am Anger, to Gunz, to Groswarasdoff, to Edenbourg, to Grosholslein, to Wimpasseing, to Hochan, to Vienna.

A JOURNEY FROM CONSTANTINOPLE to ALEPPO,

BY

GEORGE BALDWIN, Esq;

IT is necessary to obtain a Firman or order from the Porte before you can be furnished with post horses. The method observed by Franks (by which appellation all Europeans are distinguished in Turky) is to apply to their respective minister by whose direction it is demanded of the Porte, and always granted: but any subject of the Empire may obtain it by direct application to the Vizir, and upon paying a fee of three Crush and a half (or *7s. 6d.*) to the clerk. I obtained mine by this means,

 and

and at ſeven o'clock in the morning of the 11th of May, 1780, left the Metropolis in a boat, and croſſed the Helleſpont to Scuder, or Scutari, the Chryſopolis of the ancients.

Mr. —— a painter by profeſſion, myſelf, Selim Aga a Tartar guide, Emin Aga who begged my eſcort; my ſervant Matthew, an Armenian, and two poſt boys, called Serugees, compoſed my party. At half paſt eight we mounted, and on our way paſſed Malteſſa, Fenar, Cartel, and at Bendik we ſtopped and refreſhed. The Turks have proportioned their diſtance to time, and by my general obſervation, it turned out about four miles to the hour: in riding poſt through, they often run down three hours in one. The appearance of the country to the left, or North Eaſt; is a gentle aſcent over hills, leading to the foot of very high mountains. The ſoil ſeems good, is well cultivated, and the vegetation much forwarder, than in Europe, though at ſo ſmall a diſtance from it. All the way on our right we had a view of the ſea of Marmora, the princes iſlands, the gulph of Iſmit, the coaſt of Mandania, and mount Olympus. At five o'clock in the even-

ing

ing we arrived at Gheibize, the firſt Menzel Khané, or poſt houſe from Scuder.

It muſt be remarked, that we were all equipped as Tartars, and were from long intercourſe with the Turks, pretty well able to ſupport our diſguiſe. We were enjoying our pipes and coffee at this place, and compoſed in fact for the evening; but this was to be a journey of adventures, and the arrival of a certain Oſman Aga, on his way from Aleppo to Conſtantinople opened the firſt ſcene.

He brought with him the baggage of an Engliſh gentleman, who had accompanied him to the ſtage before, but had ſtrayed from his party, and might probably, he ſaid have fallen among thieves, as he had been miſſing from two o'clock in the morning. I looked into the baggage to find by ſome ſuperſcription of letters, who the perſon might be, by which I diſcovered him to be a Captain James Smyth. The circumſtance engaged one to mount, though tired, to go in ſearch of him. We paſſed a village after two hours march called Mallum, and further on to a ferry, where we embarked with our horſes, and ſailed acroſs an arm of the gulph of Nicomedia, courſe ſouth eaſt, to a low point

of land on the oppoſite ſhore; diſtant only a quarter of an hour's walk from a hamlet, called Herſek. This traverſe which we performed in three quarters of an hour, avoids a ſix hour's round by land, and in winter, is ſometimes ſo boiſterous, as to be impaſſable for days together. My firſt buſineſs at this place was to enquire for my diſtreſſed countryman, and I was almoſt inſtantly gratified by finding him in a ſolitary coffee houſe, extended on a mat aſleep; I called to him by his name. He ſtarted, ſtared, and looked aſtoniſhed, as if he ſtill thought himſelf in a dream. This gentleman had been in India, aid de camp to General Egerton, and had arrived thus far on his way to England. He had been moſt cruelly beaten by the man that accompanied him acroſs the deſert from Baſſora to Aleppo, and from thence, by colluſion with his Tartar guide, had forced his company upon him, in ſpite of all the precaution he had taken to avoid it. They had travelled diſagreeably together as far as Kiz dovréne, but on the road from this place, which is notorious, I am told, for robbers; both this man and the guide ſet upon him, and forced him to fly for ſafety to the woods. He concealed himſelf there till day light, and then crept into a corn field by the

road

road side, whence he espied a hospitable passenger, an honest Bostangee, who conducted him to the place he was in when I found him. He little expected when he laid down in this situation, surrounded by a people he knew nothing of, and full of apprehensions of further ill treatment, ignorant of their language, and helpless in many other respects, that he should be roused by a countryman seeking to relieve him, and administer succour to his distress. It appeared to him, as I said before, the effect of a dream, and he was long awake before he could be undeceived. When informed of my name, he knew it, and appeared rejoiced to see me. It is flattering to observe a public prevention in one's favour! I rescued Mr. Smyth from the people of Hersek who were unwilling to give him up; nor till I had threatened to return to Constantinople to complain, would they release him. I procured him a boat, and a trusty person to attend him, when he had embarked, and I saw him set sail for Constantinople (it was twelve o'clock at night) I returned to my quarters and laid me down to rest.

At half past four in the morning (12th May) I resumed my journey over hills and dales, a four

four hours ride, to Kiz dovréne. The nightingales, which in this country ſing all day, and are near every ſhaded brook, are ſo numerous, and their notes ſo ſweet; as to make the ride a ſpecies of enchantment. The village we are now at, is inhabited by Bulgarians, and is ſituated on a hill, ſurrounded by higher hills, and near the foot of an ancient ruined caſtle. Theſe people are independent, and preſerve their original cuſtoms. Their women go unveiled, are free, joçoſe, and of a complexion and forwardneſs, that beſpeaks no apprehenſion of inſult or violation. We breakfaſted with this Amazonian tribe, upon eggs and milk, and proceeded on our journey with the ſame horſes towards Chiniſlik. The road is the greateſt part over hills, enriched with ſpontaneous odoriferous ſhrubs, and pleaſant, if exceſs can pleaſant be, to the extreme. When you come to the deſcent, the proſpect is delightful. On your right appears a vaſt lake, adorned with a rich verdent margin; in front, at the eaſt end of the lake, the city of Chiniſlik; and to the left, promiſcuouſly diſperſed on riſing grounds, in a ſemi-circular view, a variety of villages, beautifully environed by variegated lands, and cattle brouzing on the ſummit. It was ten o'clock when we reached

the city. You enter among ſome veſtiges of a ruined wall, and on a ſquare tower, high up, is ſeen a Greek inſcription: nothing in the town elſe did I ſee worth remarking. We got freſh horſes, and mounted at four o'clock; our road lay along the middle of a rich valley, and on each ſide adorned with walnut trees, a ſmall rivulet running between. The cultivation on each ſide the mountains, to their utmoſt ſcope, appearing more extended, and giving a livelier picture of induſtry, than I had met with in any other part of Turky. After an hour's ride in the valley, we began to aſcend the hill to the right, and at the top, were brought in proſpect of the Bruſſa road; only ſix hours diſtant from the capital of that name, once the royal reſidence of the Sultans: it is deſcribed by a river running at the foot of it. This river has its ſource in mount Olympus, and is increaſed by the hot ſprings of Bruſſa, and the diſſolving ſnows from the heights above it. It flows northward to the Black Sea, and enlivened our proſpect all the way to Leuke (our third poſt-houſe) a city of ſome note for its manufactures. We did not arrive before ten o'clock at night, fatigued and hungry. We ſupped on pilo and ſtewed fowl, our invariable fare, and reſted like travellers worn down with fatigue.

fatigue. At four in the morning (13th May) we mounted, and as we rode along the town, could see the world in motion. Many of the inhabitants are Christians, and their houses spacious; the river runs at the bottom of the town. Beyond it on the banks, were planted for a long tract, the white mulberry tree, for the nourishment of silk worms; for in this territory is produced large quantities of silk, which finds its way to Europe, under the denomination of Brussa silk; and for its goodness is in high repute. We passed a very delightful valley, well watered and interspersed with trees during the first part of this post; and towards the end, over a very steep and difficult mountain. The road is level on the top for a good stretch, but we soon came to a shed occupied by a guard, who were provided with fresh water, and such fruit as the situation would enable them to procure, for the convenience of the traveller. We met here half a dozen men, whom we should have been very sorry to have met upon the road: fellows that had been dismissed from the service of the Basha of Trebizond; and who, in their state of dereliction, are known to have recourse, for subsistence, to every species of violence. It is the case all over the Turkish empire, when any Basha

ſha is depoſed, his mercenaries are diſcharged, and under the denomination of copſiſſes, or men at leiſure, go a free booting upon the public, until they are reinſtated in ſome other employ; they then plunder for their maſter, for their avocation is to deſpoil. Theſe men eyed us with looks of rapine, but they ſaw us armed; they took the road we came, and we proceeded on our journey. This was a poſt of ten hours to Sekut (fourth poſt-houſe.) Near this place, and in view of it, is buried the firſt of the Ottoman race, the great Ali Oſman Pádeſhá. His tomb appears at about half a mile diſtant from the poſt houſe, by an iron palliſading, and a plantation of lofty cypreſſes. We mounted at five in the afternoon, rode over mountains, and latterly over a fine plain, to Eſkee Shaher (fifth poſt-houſe.) As we were ſeaſoned a little to riding by this time, we accelerated our rate, and performed this poſt in ſeven hours; which brought us in at twelve o'clock at night. Upon the ſofa in the room to which we had been uſhered, lay a Turkiſh guittar, a hum-drum kind of a thing to European ears, but temptation enough to divert Selim from his inclination to reſt. He ſtrung it to his voice, and with an hilarity of ſong, which Yorick would have harmonized

monized to the fineſt feelings, he charmed away the night. At dawn we ſallied forth to view the baths; and the morning diſcloſed to us a city beautifully ſituated on the acclivity of a hill, commanding a wide expanded view over a fruitful, well watered plain. A copious ſource of natural hot water riſes in the ſkirts of the city, and unites its ſtream with a conſiderable river, flowing to the ſouthward. The baths are built over the ſpring; but where the waters iſſue, to the place of their junction with the river, all along its courſe, the poor inhabitants are employed in great numbers, in ſuch offices of neceſſary and uſeful ablution, as the conveniency and importance of ſuch a benefit, muſt unavoidably ſuggeſt. I bathed in theſe celebrated hot baths, and drank of the waters; both were reported to have efficacies conducive to health. In effect, I can vouch for their property of immediately operating all the good purpoſes of eaſe and relaxation. I was as delaſſé in half an hour; as if my ride had been only ten, inſtead of two hundred miles. It was a fortunate refreſhment, for we got but indifferent horſes here; but we made them go notwithſtanding in ten hours, over hills, and a pleaſanter, becauſe a varied ſoil, to Saidi Khazzee, (6th poſt-houſe.) This place

is diſtinguiſhed by a large ſquare building, with a magnificent moſque in it, on the top of a hill. It took its name from a ſurprizing ſanton, who, by the tradition of the Sheick, moſt marvelouſly confined a gigantic ſpirit, that had done incredible ravages, and was the terror of the country round about. The daughter of Solyman the Great, had it declared to her in a viſion, that if ſhe would make a pilgrimage to this ſpot, and dedicate upon it, a moſque to the prophet; the Sheick ſhould be endued with power to ſhackle this ſpirit, whereby the people ſhould be relieved: all which was regularly complied with, and fulfilled. The Sheick gave the painter and myſelf a paper of white powder each (part of the giant's bones pulveriſed, I ſuppoſe) which had the property of preſerving us againſt danger. We took it and gave him alms, which is the only valuable property it had in effect. "That "of drawing from the credulity of the ignorant, "or the complaiſance of the enlightened, a tri-"bute which contributed to his affluence and "ſupport." We left this place at four in the afternoon, and becauſe at the next poſt-houſe, the horſes could not be got in from paſture before a delay of ten hours, we croſſed the country directly over mountains and through woods to

the place where they were. We were nine hours, which detained us until one in the morning. Corsaff Basha is the name of the seventh post-house; but we deviated to an itinerant horde. We roused the chief from his cabbin, composed of the trunks of fir trees, laid as they were hewn down, one upon another, in a square figure ten feet high; and covered at top with the branches and leaves: it had a chimney place formed with mud and stone, and a glorious fire in it. We took his place, lighted our pipes, made some coffee, ordered our horses to be got by morning, desired some eggs and milk might be provided for breakfast, and then resigned ourselves to sleep. At day light, Hadgee Mustafa, Menzel Aga of Cosruff Basha, a man of a very respectable appearance joined our party. After some conversation, by which he had discovered that we were Franks, he entertained us with a very unexpected breakfast, for he had his family among the horde, and flocks and herds abounding about him: he told us also of a wondrous building in the neighbourhood of the place, on which Frank characters were inscribed; and which must have been erected, he said, before the Turks had driven the Infidels (Ghiaours) from the country. It was only an hour's ride,

and

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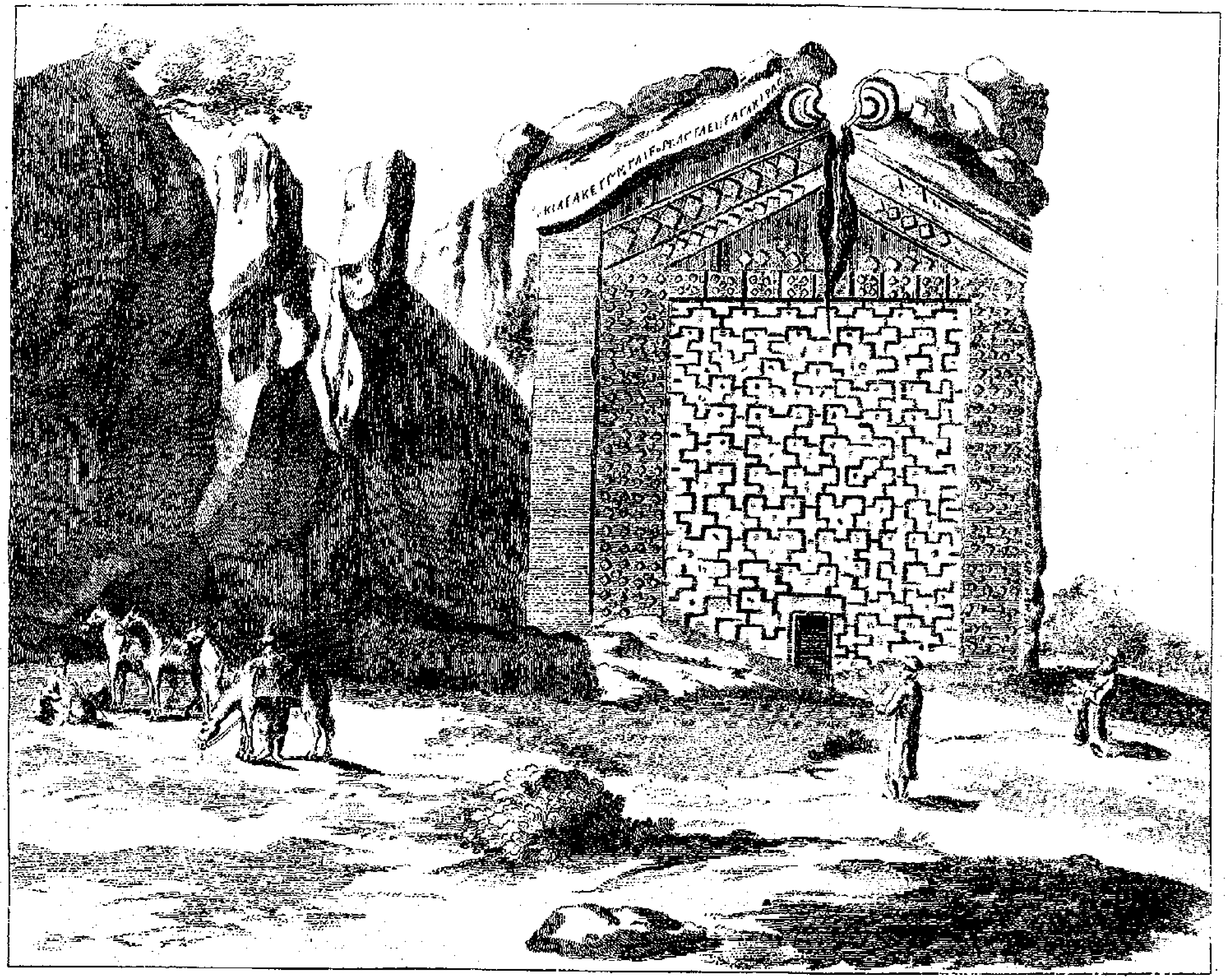

ΛΣ:ΤVΛV ΕΝS:ΛΕΙΕ$VΡΡ,ΝΙ ΤΙΜ   ΚΙΛΓΛΚΕΓΓΜΓΑΙΕΜΙΛΓΓΛΕΙΙΓΛΓΛΚΓΡΛΕΜ   ΒΑΒΛ:ΜΕΜ:ΓΛΙΞ:ΓΡΙΤΛΓΣ ΚΡ VΘΓΛΓΕV$ΣΙΚΕΜΛΛΓ$

and he propoſed to lend us horſes and to conduct us thither. Mr. ——, the painter, and myſelf mounted, and followed our good old Turk to this fragment of antiquity. We proceeded over a hill, and through a wood of pines, to a ſmall valley, in which a rivulet runs, ſupplied by water oozing from an ancient aquaduct; and two hills in the form of ſugar loaves, on which are the ruins of two ancient towers. Theſe were not the objects our Aga had intimated for our obſervation. He led us further to a ground aſcending to the foot of a rock, making the extreme angle of a chain of inferior mountains. As we approached, it exhibited a beautiful ornamental facade, engraved on a poliſhed ſurface of the rock. It ſeemed to have been a work antecedent to the claſſical inſtitutions in architecture; but regular, ſublime, and bold. On the extreme right margin of the facade, beginning about one fourth of the height from the ground, and wrote ſideways upwards to about one third of the top, is a clear and diſtinct inſcription of ancient characters: There appears another on the projected corniſh, over the upper part of the left ſide of the facade, but ſome of the characters effaced, the reſt very clear. I offer no conjecture as to the intentions

of

of their authors; but give the fact, and leave the comment to antiquarians.

The depth of the rock, for it projects from the great mass of the mountain, and is palpable on three sides of it, is no more than twenty feet: and appears, excepting the polished and engraved facade in its rude, irregular and natural shape, without a sign of excavation, or the vestige of a building. I had a thought at first indeed, that, as it faced to the east, it might have been a monument of pagan worship: but further on, is another in the same style, of less magnitude and beauty, facing the north, which again staggered my opinion. I may conclude with safety, that, let what will be meant by it, it presents at least to the contemplation of the curious, a singular, magnificent and lasting view of the then state of ornamental architecture. The when, and by whom, as before observed, is left to the decision of the curious and learned.

In a line parallel to the facade, northward at about one hundred and fifty paces distant, is another rock, isolated, and of a conical form, exhibiting as many cavities of the same nature with those of the catacombs near the pyramids of Egypt, as the solid rock could possibly contain. I

entered

entered into many, but none communicated with the others. They have all a variety of niches, ſome more, ſome leſs, as the number expected to be depoſited therein, required the labour of making them; and leave no room to doubt, that they were receptacles for the dead. They are now receptacles for the living, for I found a bird's neſt in one of them with ſeveral young, but I thought there was more piety in leaving them undiſturbed, than impiety in diſturbing the inſenſible dead.

We returned to the hamlet at half paſt one in the afternoon, and mounted our horſes at two, very well ſatisfied with our digreſſion and diſcovery. The old man, in the idea which is generally entertained by the inhabitants of the Eaſt, that all Franks are doctors or conjurors; held out his pulſe, which I directed to the painter, as having ſomething more intenſe in his phiz, to know if he was well. As it generally turns out, that people act from impulſe, and only aſk the advice of doctors when they want it; I told Mr. —— to recommend a doſe of rhubarb, with which he was provided, to cool the old man's blood: he ſaid it was very wiſe and proper, thanked us, and bid us farewel.

We paſſed through woods and over mountains, three hours march before we got into the high road. Proceeding, we ſaw to the left of us, or north ſide of the road, many cavities in the rocks, of the ſame appearance of thoſe I deſcribed in the laſt ſtage; but leading one into the other to infinity. The entrance to theſe caverns is ſmall, but ſome of them may be capable of containing three hundred horſe. Further on ſtands a rock, ſingly, and of a ſugar-loaf form, excavated and diſpoſed in ſuch regular apartments, as, my guide ſaid, had acquired it the appellation of Seraija or palace. Theſe places, it is ſaid, were inhabited by banditti; and I ſaw on the way ſide near them, a large number of ſepulchral ſtones, ſtained with red, to denote that the blood of thoſe, that were there interred, was ſpilt by violence. It took us thirteen hours to Ballawadin (eighth poſt houſe) where we reſted till ſeven o'clock, Tueſday morning the 16th of May. It was here that upon our arrival, a fellow addreſſing himſelf to me as head of the party, proceeded without further ceremony to ſhampoo me. It is a cuſtom in the Turkiſh baths to preſs with both hands upon every limb and joint, and by croſſing and bending them to their utmoſt ſtretch, bring the muſcles to their proper tone: it does not produce the moſt agree-

able

able ſenſations during the operation, but, after hard riding, is the compleateſt reſtorative to ſtrength and vigor that can be imagined*.

The road from this place is acroſs a plain, for the moſt part under water; a bridge however, compoſed of a great number of arches over the deepeſt part of it, affords a dry paſſage to the traveller. In this part of the country grows the poppy, from which opium is made; fruitful and extenſive crops were ripening to the expecting peaſant's wiſh. Having croſſed the plain and being arrived at the foot of the oppoſite mountains, we followed their direction, and were refreſhed and delighted, by paſſing over at ſhort intervals, plentiful torrents of water, nouriſhed by the melting ſnow on the mountain heighths and running into the plain.

In ſix hours we arrived at Iſſaklee (ninth poſt houſe) and dined, but loſt no time. We reſumed our journey with freſh horſes, and proceeded along the ſame delightful plain, ſtill copiouſly ſupplied at little diſtances by torrents of refreſhing water, from the ſnow-top'd mountains, all the

* Vide Letter, p. 28.

way to Askeshaher—only seven hours' ride from the last post house and the tenth from Constantinople.

This is the first town in Caramania, situated at the foot and in the chasm of a mountain. It gave birth to the famous Nasser il Din, celebrated for his great wit and pleasantry. His spirit is invoked as the genius of the place; and they report of him, that unless certain unremitted attentions are paid to him by the inhabitants, he causes the fresh winds to cease, and reduces them to despair. In his life time the great Zingis Khan passed before the town, and Nasser il Din was deputed by the inhabitants to appear before him, and to pay their homage to him. But as the custom of the East makes it criminal to go into the presence of the Great for the first time without some tribute, and the poverty of the place could offer nothing but the fruit in season; old Nasser il Din had a dispute with his wife, whether he should take pomegranates or figs: she was for the former, but he took the figs, in which he had good cause to triumph; for when he presented the figs, the conqueror ordered his people to throw them one by one at his head; and for every one that hit him, he was observed to make a solemn thanksgiving

giving to God. Zingis Khan could not refrain from demanding the reaſon of this from the philoſopher, who explained himſelf by ſaying, that if he had brought the pomegranates, his *wife* would have had cauſe to triumph, by ſeeing him return with his head broken. It muſt have been therefore the work of Providence that inſpired him to take the figs in oppoſition to her opinion; whom, for quiet ſake, he had humoured in every other inſtance of his life. Zingis Khan, for this witticiſm endowed him with the ſovereignty of the place, and which has been ſacred to his memory ever ſince.

From the town we deſcended again to the ſame fine plain, and after ten hours ride, that is, at one o'clock in the morning, we reached Il Ghaun (eleventh poſt houſe) 17th of May; three hours reſt ſufficed us. At four we mounted to proceed on a ſtage of eighteen hours. The firſt part over uneven ground, though a rich ſoil, to Khabung Khané, and ſo on to Ladik, a town half way. It was time to reſt and recruit our horſes and ourſelves for nine hours further ſtretch, upon nine hours already performed with the ſame horſes, was ſomething redoubtable both to man and beaſt. In two hours however on we went. Our road

was over little hills about half the way. At near ſun-ſet we came in ſight of Conia, then at a great diſtance, ſtanding majeſticly on an extenſive plain, once the ſeat of empire. The eye is wearied with this view. A mountain ſtands ſingly in the center of the plain, ſeeming from riſing vapours in the vaſt expanſe, a ſhapeleſs cloud. As we approached, our objects diſappeared. Night dropped her veil and cloſed the ſcene.

THE way grew tedious as our nags grew weary, for nothing is ſo irkſome as a jaded horſe. Fatigue, and ſome little inconveniences from long inceſſant riding, made me feveriſh, but a few hours reſt repaired all that. Temperance of living, and abſtinence from wine, are neceſſary rules to be obſerved in travelling. To theſe I aſcribe my good ſtate of health, and the facility with which I endured the fatigues, the heats, and hardſhips of the journey: it was ten at night before we got to Conia. The poſt houſe (being the 12th) is without the walls of the city, not to interfere with the diſcipline of fortified towns, nor impede the courſe of public intelligence and diſpatch. This city ſtands about half way between Conſtantinople and Aleppo,

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and makes a diſtance by my computation of near five hundred miles.

Having performed it in eight days, ſome little indulgence might conſcientiouſly be taken; we therefore determined to ſpend the night and next day, at Conia. The walls are not ſo ruined as the generality of thoſe city walls which have fallen under the Turkiſh yoke: there are many baſtions yet complete, and many monuments of the power and paſſage of Sultan Amurath over this country. There are divers pieces of ſculpture inſerted in the walls, and particularly a coat of arms, having two ſpread eagles for ſupporters and another for the creſt, incomparably well engraved. On the wall leading to the right from the principal gate, are two figures of lions, as big again as life, projecting from the wall, turned towards each other, and, by their attitude and expreſſion, ſeeming eager to attack. Many indications are apparent of its having been a great and powerful city, and indeed the ſituation is ſuch, as with induſtry and good government, to be ſuſceptible of the higheſt attainment of grandeur and opulence.

Before I take my leave of Conia, I muſt remark ſomething on the inſtitution of public poſt houſes all over the Turkiſh empire. The aſtoniſhing heaps of bones and ſkeletons of horſes diſperſed in and about the yard of this poſt houſe, particularly, made it occur to me as an object worthy of enquiry.

It being one of the principal ſprings of all governments, and eſſential to a deſpot, to be well informed of the fluctuations in the inferior orders of the ſtate; this public regulation the only one which is well followed up in Turky, has been eſtabliſhed all over the empire. In ſuch towns on all the high roads as are at convenient diſtances, a number of horſes are ſtationed for the Grand Signors Tartars, or the Tartars of any of the Baſhas; or any of the Sultans officers of note; or any ſubject, or ſtranger who may be furniſhed with orders to that effect from the ſupreme Vizir, or the governors of provinces whoſe authority your ſituation may make you ſtand in need of. Every horſe, for every hour's diſtance, ſtands you in ten aſpers or two pence halfpenny; and the guide in ten aſpers for each horſe for the whole ſtage: ſo that a ſingle traveller

veller with his guide going a ſtage of ten hours will pay for the two horſes - - 0£. 4s. 2d.

And for his guide - - 0 0 5

0 4 7

That is four ſhillings and ſeven pence for a ſtage of forty miles.

But as this pay is very inadequate to the charge, it becomes the concern of the public to defray the deficiency; and therefore, they appoint an agent to adminiſter the functions of a poſt maſter; that the office may be regularly performed, and the due proportion of each with juſtice aſcertained. It had been in many places, a reaſon of extortion to the Baſha's, who under pretence of aſſeſſing a rate for the purpoſe of maintaining a due number of men and horſes for their indiſpenſable ſervice, have oftentimes fleeced the poor inhabitants of ten times the needful. On this account in ſome places where a certain ſpirit of liberty has ſhewn itſelf, the principal inhabitants have agreed to take this duty by turns on themſelves; and in ſuch places it is common to meet with extraordinary good horſes.

At Conia they were mere lanthorns. The neareſt ſtation to this great city being a ride of ſixteen hours at leaſt, no horſe can poſſibly reſiſt it for any length of time. It follows that the mortality is very great, and the charge of courſe ſo heavy, as to make it incredible, without ocular demonſtration, to thoſe who are forced to ſupport it. For this reaſon the agent or Menzel Aga is cautious enough to preſerve the ſkeletons in evidence of his honeſty, and to ſcreen himſelf from puniſhment. It may ſeem ſtrange that ſo much regularity ſhould be an effect of tyranny and oppreſſion; but as thoſe who have the power to enforce it, are ſo intimately intereſted in its punctual adminiſtration; it is likely to continue; and to be the moſt durable, as it certainly is the moſt uſeful inſtitution, in this tottering empire.

At five in the evening (18th May) we mounted and rode twelve hours along the plain to a village called Iſmil, where it was incumbent upon us to reſt. In ſix hours we reſumed our journey, which brought us by the iſolated mountain, in nine hours march to Kaiabunar, making a ſtage of one and twenty hours on horſeback. The ground is little cultivated in view of the

road

road, but produces numberlefs beautiful flowers, aromatic herbs, and almoft univerfally over the plain, the abfynthium or wild wormwood, emitting a fragrance which embalmed the air. In this town (13th poft houfe) is a well built mofque, and at a proper diftance in front of it, a large Khan, built, both of them, by Sultan Selim upon his return victorious, two hundred and twenty years ago from Egypt. The roofs were covered with fheet lead, fupplied from a mine in the neighbourhood of the place, but now neglected.

THIS country is renowned for its fheep and goats, and for the excellence of their fleece; their pafture is in fact like that fhort fubftantial kind which grows on the fouth end of Banftead downs. We refted here till midnight, changed horfes, and proceeded before one, by the ifland of Salt, and acrofs a large marfh under water to Khortee; a village deferted in the fummer on account of the bad air, though on the border of a fine ftream abounding with fifh. Innumerable quantities of ferpents alfo infeft this river, and come floating upon its furface, with creft erect, contemning danger. Two that came within our reach from the bridge, were victims

of their temerity, but more perhaps of the enmity we had imbibed in common with mankind, againſt this natural foe to the human race. We were tempted by the ſituation to indulge with a pipe, than which no luxury at ſuch a time can be greater; and having quaffed voluptuouſly for an hour, we remounted and purſued our way. The remainder of this poſt was over as fine a common land as I ever ſaw, and ſo ſimilar in fact to ſome ſituations I had been partial to in England, as to ſtir up ſome old and painful affections of my heart. I loſt the charm of the thing in the effects of the compariſon; and for this time was the dupe of my recollection. In riding by a ditch, we diſcovered a large ſerpent upon the brink of it, with a toad's head in its mouth, and the body, though ſwelled as big as ſhe could make it, her laſt reſource, yielding gradually to the more powerful ſuction of its devourer. I attempted to relieve the toad, by firing a piſtol at the ſerpent, which flaſhed in the pan; but Selim was more ſucceſsful with a ſtone, for he killed the ſerpent and relieved the priſoner. This was in ſight of Heraclea (14th poſt-houſe) the approach to which is very pleaſing. Its principal avenue is compoſed of a conſiderable plantation of trees in a ſemi-circular aſpect, and

and beyond them on a rifing ground, appears the town, over which a lofty mountain rears its head involved in fnow. The more immediate entrance to the town, is by an alleé, formed by a double row of trees on each fide, through both of which is turned an ample ftream. You pafs a gate of fun-burnt brick, which with the other appearances of the town, denotes that its chief ornaments are the gifts of nature; fimple, but fufficient. We difmounted at about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and refted till four in the evening. We then purfued our journey all night, over hills and dales to Urucifla (15th poft-houfe.) The habitations in this village are mere huts; there is a khan but I did not look into it. They gave us entertainment after their way, furnifhed us with frefh horfes, and on we continued, over and among mountains of a great height; having a river running at the bottom, fupplied by frequent torrents and fources of water gufhing from the rocks above us on both fides. In five hours we came to a bridge, which defcribes the limits of the Caraman and Adena Bafhaliks; and beyond the bridge is a fource of water, for its peculiar goodnefs and fweetnefs call'd Shukher Poaré, the fountain of fugar. Here we were over taken by a Boftangee and his fervant, who joined us,

 and

and regaled us with a whiff of his Nergheel or Perſian pipe; he had left Conſtantinople the day after us, but had not delayed on the way; in half an hour we mounted and purſued our journey together. The mountains are adorned with numberleſs pines fantaſtically planted, affording a moſt delightful ſcene. In the courſe of the laſt ſeven hours, the two chains of mountains which environ the great plain of Conia, and which my memory can trace back to the plains of Bulla Wadin; having gradually approached each other, and now from an eaſtward direction, turn rapidly to the ſouth, and round the intermediate points of the compaſs quite to ſouthweſt, and in this direction continue. We met in this day's journey, many large caravans of Turkman families, attended like the patriarchs of old, by all their live ſtock of camels, horſes, cows, goats and ſheep: along the vallies we ſaw others encamped to an incredible number. They wander as the ſeaſons invite, from eaſt to weſt, and from north to ſouth, where markets offer for their ſuperfluous ſtock; in ſuch directions, and in ſuch proportion, ſo as to find paſture diſtributed by the gracious hand of Providence for their flocks. They are well cloathed, and the females of the chiefs are accommodated with

(tackts)

(tackts) litters. Their appearance, their wealth, their ſimplicity, ſeem each of them to beſpeak inextinguiſhable freedom.

At eight o'clock in the evening (20th May) we arrived pretty much fatigued, at Yá Illah (16th poſt-houſe) a place compoſed of only three huts, but under the government of a Turkman Aga, who ſhews no particular reſpect for the Sultan's officers or commands; made independent by the ſecurity of his ſituation. The name of the place is an invocation to God, adapted as I ſuppoſe to the danger of the paſs. I could perceive rebellion in every look, word and geſture. Our Tartar Selim, who bluſtered or flattered as he knew the weakneſs or independence of his men, was obliged at this poſt houſe to aſſume an air of meekneſs; he began in an high tone of voice, but was anſwered with contempt: at length he ſubmitted to pay an exorbitant fee for his horſes, and was glad to get away. It was paſt midnight, and in a ſhort time we began to deſcend the mountain. At about half way the deſcent, we came to a chaſm, near twenty feet wide, the mountain running abruptly up on each ſide to a ſtupendous height. On the ſummit to the right is an ancient tower that might well annoy the paſs, but its natural defence

defence below, ſeems to bid defiance to the moſt powerful armies. It is in my opinion, the proper line of ſeparation between Syria and Caramania. The narrow paſs took up an hour in the deſcent, and along a dangerous and horrid road; but affording by the light of the moon, ſuch awful and romantic ſcenes as might feaſt the wildeſt imagination. Our poſt-boys were unuſually concerned for the ſafety of our rear, perpetually warning every body not to lag. It was a journey of ſtrange delight and conſternation I confeſs. By day light we had paſſed the defile, and were got to a pleaſant fountain of water in the neighbourhood of ſome inhabited lands; but ſtill in the mountains, and of a very ſuſpicious complexion, from the objects we could diſcover about us. We delayed but little, and at eight o'clock (21ſt May) we were repoſing again in a poor man's garden, made and cultivated for the accommodation of the traveller. It was near a large khan, originally built for the paſſage of the troops, and very uſeful to the caravans in rainy ſeaſons, but otherwiſe ſeldom frequented. From this place it requires an hour's ride to an inferior order of mountains, and among theſe, four hours more to the plain of Adena, extending to the ſea. We reached this

ſitua-

ſituation at five o'clock in the evening, and ſeated ourſelves by a ſmall refreſhing ſtream.

It was like the landing-place to our journey's end. We could ſee from thence the ſea of Scanderoon, and the mountains beyond it. The city of Aleppo is diſtant about two hundred and twenty miles, but we were comforted at the proſpect of ſoon arriving at our journey's end. Selim propoſed that we ſhould go to Tarſus inſtead of Adena, it was a nearer way he ſaid, if there was a certainty of finding boats, but as that ſcheme would only have diminiſhed our journey by land to encreaſe it by ſea, we thought proper to decline it. Our horſes were ſo much knocked up, as to retard our arrival at Adena (17th poſt-houſe) till three o'clock in the morning (22d May) the thirteenth day of our departure from Conſtantinople. All the way from the foot of the mountains the ſoil is fine, and well cultivated; exhibiting extenſive crops of cotton and corn.

ADENA is ſituated on the banks of the Cydnus and Tarſus which I have juſt mentioned, is famous for being the ſcene of Cleopatra's magnificence, when cited by Anthony to the plains of Cilicia.

We entered on the north ſide of the town, but could diſtinguiſh little; it was night, but in iſſuing, we paſſed over a bridge of ſome conſideration guarded on the town-ſide by a tower. During our ſhort ſtay at Adena, we partook of the pleaſure of the hot baths, which to harraſſed travellers is a real pleaſure, drank plentifully of iced ſhorbets, eat ſome delicate apples, and ſmoaked our pipes. We were viſited by two Armenians, who called themſelves agents to the Engliſh gentlemen at Aleppo. The country was in great diſorder they ſaid. Oſman Baſha, made Baſha of Adena, by the intereſt of Abdi Baſha, whoſe Kiaia he had been, on the point of marching with an army to aſſiſt his patron in the reduction of the rebels who had infeſted the environs of Aleppo for many months. They diverted me from going by Scanderoon as I had intended, becauſe they ſaid no Frank was there; but they did no more than comply with the deſire of Selim, who was averſe to that route. It was a ſcheme they were alſo perſonally intereſted in, for wiſhing me to take charge of a bag of five hundred dollars to Aleppo, which I had refuſed, becauſe money is a lure for thieves; they prevailed on Selim to take it, and on me to take the other road, that it might be leſs expoſed.

We mounted at five o'clock in the evening for Caradaſh on the ſea coaſt to embark, and about midnight came to a horde or banditti, living in houſes compoſed of cane and mud, half under ground and half above, of the moſt thief like appearance I ever beheld. Mr. —— and myſelf were enjoined not to utter a ſyllable of Frank, and mute as mice we obeyed. We ſpread our carpets upon the top of one of theſe fellow's cells, and reſigned ourſelves to ſleep.

At three o'clock in the morning (23d May) we were rouſed, but by our own companions, and ſet off again on our journey. We had left the river to our left a little before we came to Yá illah, to purſue its courſe between the mountains, while we made ſtrait over the tops, and met it again at Adena, after the ſouthwardmoſt chain of mountains had emancipated its reſtraints and gave it free career upon the plain. We croſſed by the bridge at Adena, and, ſaw it and its beautiful effects almoſt the whole length of the plain to the ſea. In the latter part of our journey we diſturbed great numbers of antelopes and wild boars, as they lay concealed in an extenſive ſpace of lofty rye graſs, ſerving them both for food and ſhelter. There appeared ſome

ruins of villages on our way to Caradaſh, a ten hours march from Adena (I will call this the 18th poſt houſe).

THIS is the place of embarkation. It was ſeven o'clock when we arrived. Fifteen boats had juſt landed a caravan of goods from the bay of Seleucia going from Aleppo to Conſtantinople, and afforded us choice of embarkation. Whilſt Selim bargain'd for the boat, I bathed in the ſea, and obſerved the ſituation to be Cape Malo, forming the north cape of the gulph of Scanderoon. It affords a ſmall harbour for boats, being defended by two long flat rocks to the ſouthward. Cloſe above the beach along ſhore runs a conſiderable bank of ſand, through which a paſſage is cut in a direct line with the center of the port, having a ſquare building on an eminence fronting it, intended to give ſhelter to paſſengers and their effects.

NEAR this place, the Engliſh ſhip Greyhound was wrecked in the year 1760, and on the ſtrand lay one of her guns, a melancholy memento of that misfortune. I was at Cyprus at the time, the ſhip had juſt before been with us; it was a ſubject of grief to me then; nor can I help ſaying now, but my ſorrows are revived.

At three o'clock in the afternoon we embarked, and by the evening had traversed the gulph and were close under Cape Khanzir (hog) the southwardmost cape of the gulph of Scanderoon. During the night we had a smart thunder storm and much rain. In the morning we passed old Seleucia formerly in the bay of that name, but now of Antioch. The ruins of it seem to spread semicircularly round the hills above the port. The Ries, or master of the boat told us, it had been an excellent harbour, but that the Turks had destroyed it: I could have told him the same story with additions and variations. The bay of Antioch has Cape Khanzir to the left or N. E. and mount Cassius to the right or S. W. To hit the entrance of the river (Orontes) coming from the northward, you must steer right for the center of the high land of Cassius, which course will bring you on the line of contact between the sea and river waters. You then run eastward along shore direct for a little low building on the plain marking the entrance to the river, into which we sailed for half a mile and landed on its banks. Our Bostangee was on shore first, and being an officer on public business was first accommodated with horses. He had told us that he was upon some commission to the Basha

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of Damaſcus, and that he ſhould go along mount Caſſius (which by the bye is an almoſt impracticable route) to Latachia. In ſhort he took his leave and we beſtirred ourſelves to follow his example.

The place is now called Sovadee (which I ſhall deem the 19th poſt houſe) and conſiſts of a few cane huts. There were quantities of corn in heaps near the river as if for ſale; and upon a hill to the right appeared a town of little note. Among theſe mountains are various ſectaries of idolaters; ſome of them worſhipping the devil as their ſupreme being, and offering as the moſt acceptable ſacrifice to his infernal highneſs the blood of a cock. The river abounds in eels, which are caught and ſalted and carried to Cyprus, and all the circumjacent ports on the coaſt. The Greeks and other ſectaries of the chriſtian church make a demand for this article for their ſeaſons of lent, and a mortification it muſt be in my opinion to eat them. The fiſhery is farmed of the Baſha of Aleppo, and was in the days of my conſulary dignity at Cyprus, the property of a dependant of mine. It now belongs to the Hakim Baſhee (or proto medico) of the Baſha.

Since Biaſs has revolted, and the high road has been made impaſſable by the ravages of its uſurpers, this is become the paſſage for the Tartars. The Sultan's * Khaſnys too, which by an irrevocable law of the empire ſhould be never ventured upon ſea, is forced to ſeek ſecurity in this dangerous deviation.

Such is the convulſed ſtate of this once formidable empire. Such the neceſſary effects of a tyrannical ſyſtem of government. Oppreſſion will beget rebellion. In Caramania, and the revolted provinces, you ſee the people wearing a robuſt and manly aſpect; they have a firm emphatic tone of voice; ſpeak as if animated by a love of freedom; live a rude and natural life; poſſeſs its beſt riches, and a ſpirit to defend them! can tyranny go down with theſe? what has it produced? It is the worſt of all bad policy. It oppreſſes its own reſources. Oppreſſion begets a freſh neceſſity of oppreſſing. What it extorts to-day will be deficient to-morrow. The end is defeated by the means. Power muſt be kept up to enforce violence and to deter reſiſtance. Wants increaſe as the reſources diminiſh. Authority will know of no denial, corporal puniſh-

* Treaſures.

ments are inflicted and death. Thus the impoſſibility of avoiding, where there is no temper to the evil, forces to defiance. The law of deſpotiſm is a ſelf-deſtroying principle, infallible, unavoidable. The utmoſt in its power is to protract the evil day. When the members are lopped off which were its ſupport, how is this enormous body to ſtand? It muſt fall, decay, and periſh.

So much for tyranny. We procured horſes and at ten o'clock in the morning we mounted for Antioch. They were ſad hacks, but of evil ſometimes good (á quelque choſe malheur eſt bon) the cruelty of Abdi Baſha had ſo far expanded its terrors as to make this but a momentary inconvenience. Selim felt his authority reinvigorate under theſe auſpices, and without entreaty, diſmounted the firſt poor peaſants we met and took their horſes. He flogged them for remonſtrating, and that with ſuch a mixture of wanton ſeverity, as hurt me greatly. He thought he pleaſed me. On our way, after an hour's ride among hills, we entered a lane hedged on each ſide, and watered by a rivulet running through it. Some mulberry trees by the road ſide, made us wiſhful of their fruit and in purſuit of it we fell into the garden of a Turk.

He

He was ſeated by a limpid ſtream, in the ſhade of a wide ſpreading plantane, beguiling the time with puerile amuſements, patiently waiting for his dinner. The peculiar hoſpitality of theſe people, made us welcome partakers of his fare, which, excluſively of the grateful ſeaſoning liberality is wont to add, was compoſed of plenty and variety. This is one of the agreeable caſualties in the chapter of accidents which falls to the lot of travellers. It is the happineſs of mediocrity. Kings are ſtrangers to it. But what of theſe Scenes? They cannot humanize the vitiated ſpirit of Turkiſh prerogative. Emin Aga, our humble and pennyleſs companion was ſeized with the contagion here, and as if the example of the chief was a ſanction for the ſlave, began to beat and bully indiſcriminately.

Antioch is now in view (20th poſt houſe). It is ſituated at the foot of a barren rock and is encompaſſed by a wall which embraces the top of it. The Orontes wets the ſkirt of the city and has a bridge of tolerable appearance over it leading to a principal gate. The proſpect on this ſide is hilly, but beyond it, exhibits a level champain country, capable of the higheſt degree of cultivation. We entered the city at ſix in the evening (24th of May) diſtreſs was depicted in every

coun-

countenance. Nothing could we hear of, but the tyrannies of Abdi Basha, excepting indeed, the heart-heaving sighs with which such tales are accompanied.

Here we rested till three o'clock in the morning (Friday 25th May). The Arabs say, "When "you hear the stripes, look to your own back." A significant proverb! And as it turned out, very apposite to the circumstance of my departure from Antioch. What I heard indeed, was the prelude to a very tragic scene, wherein I was unfortunately to be a principal actor.

We mounted, and our road brought us, in about an hour, to one of those fountains, which to the honour of the Turks be it said, are met with where such conveniences have been most wanted; near almost all the public roads in the Turkish empire. We dismounted, and here for the first time on our journey, Selim prayed. As the circumstance was unusual, I remarked it at the time, and as the catastrophe which overtook him may justify such a conformity with the common opinion, that mankind feel very often a presentiment or warning of an approaching fate, I venture to ascribe Selim's new devotion to an impression of this sort. We rode on from the fountain

fountain towards the iron bridge (a bridge of ſtone over the Orontes, ſo called from having the gates caſed with iron) which took us up two hours, debating all the way, which road we ſhould take to Aleppo; for there is one by Salkin, over the mountains, but ſafe: and another by Harim, ſhorter by ſix hours, and over the plain, but dangerous. All our inclinations biaſſed to the ſhort road, and Selim though he acknowledged ſome danger, and left the option to me, made ſo ſlight of it as to determine me for the plain. I premiſed however that our arms ſhould be inſpected and made ready for an encounter, but Selim then treated the notion of danger and my propoſed precaution with ſuch contempt, as to perſuade me there was no neceſſity for it, and I neglected it. I thought no more about it, but being arrived at the iron bridge, we halted half an hour to recruit the horſes, and I profited of the time by a nap. My ſervant Matthew could not be quite ſo eaſy. During my receſſion, he had employed all the argument he could think of and his fears could ſuggeſt, to diſſuade Selim from the ſhorter route, for he had heard truer repreſentations at Antioch of the danger we had to incur, than had come to our knowledge, or than Selim would confeſs.

But the decree was gone forth. We croſſed the iron bridge and took the dangerous road. Selim was penſive but would not declare his reluctance. He rode on. I could ſee his confuſion, and was ruminating with myſelf on the folly of meeting danger without preparing at leaſt, the arms we had for our defence, when Selim rode up to me. He had juſt decided the conflict in his breaſt, and ſeeming to rejoice in the triumph of his reaſon haſtened to addreſs me. "We'll not go this road Cogia!" Why Selim? "There are no "villages in this harim (vile) road, we'll take "the other." Well, do as you pleaſe I ſaid, and in turning from that we were in, to croſs to the other road, we were forced to penetrate among ſome very high weed. Before we were well got out of it, we were purſued by four horſemen ſcarcely appearing above this weed, calling out to us to ſurrender or we were dead men. We faced about and told them to keep off. The robbers came within muſquet ſhot, ſtopped, and called to us again to ſubmit; but we affected to reſiſt. Selim drawing his ſabre, in a hectoring voice called out, your carbines, your piſtols; fire at theſe fellows. My friend the painter, and my ſervant Matthew with my carbine, had rode off. I had only *one* piſtol to

reſort

refort to, the other had flafhed at the ferpent and had not been reprimed; and with that prefented at the thieves, we received their fire. I thought to follow up their difcharge with an attack; but they were too adroit. They difabled me by a fhot through my right arm, by which my piftol dropped to the ground. Selim was fhot through the head dead upon the fpot, and two horfes were killed. Emin Aga and myfelf remained on horfeback in the field; he with a folitary fabre, and I difabled. What had we to do? Senfible as we were of our danger if the thieves fhould fire again, or attack with the fabre; we had no alternative but to truft to our horfes and if pof-fible to get away. The thieves had not offered to advance while we kept the field, but the mo-ment we fet off, having to pafs near them in our retreat, they bore down upon us with their fa-bres held at arm's length in their hands. I was foremoft a few yards, and confequently neareft. The one who had intended for me, by fome im-preffion which I cannot account for, changed his direction and turned off to Emin, met him, and with one ftroke of the fabre, cut his face clofe under his eyes down to the focket of his jaws, fo that the all but fever'd part, hung by the fkin upon his breaft, and in this condition

was he pulled from his horſe, ſtripped to his ſhirt, and left for dead upon the field. My ſervant Matthew was got ſafe back to the iron bridge when I reached it. He appeared with a moſt gloomy look, and when I diſmounted and deſired him to bind up my wound, with the cloaths and all drenched as they were in blood; he melted into tears. I forgave him for having deſerted me in the action. The Kaffar or guard of the bridge, three in number, and three Delahia or cavalry ſoldiers of the Baſha, who had ſeen the affair from the oppoſite ſide of the river, mounted and affected to purſue, but another party of thirty thieves appearing upon the plain, they thought it prudent to return. The baggage was carried clear away. I begged them to go in ſearch of the poor painter who had fled the contrary way, and could not poſſibly have eſcaped being cut to pieces, if the thieves had purſued him. In half an hour they found him, and brought him half naked, with the moſt woeful countenance I ever beheld; he was ſcared and did not know that he had got among friends. Emin Aga had been brought in a moment before by the ſerugees, his face in the condition I have deſcribed it before, hanging down and expoſing all the raw and mutilated parts of his jaw and throat. My own misfortune

appeared

appeared light, compared with ſuch a picture of deformity. His ſhirt all covered with gore, a moſt horrid ſpectacle. A gangrene formed in the part and killed him after a wretched and too long exiſtence of four days. Selim was brought to the bridge, and after a legal inqueſt upon his body intended chiefly to determine the orthodoxy of his faith, was buried by the high road, and a ſtone placed over him ſmeared with red. I ſaw in poor Selim illuſtrated the practice I had taken notice of in the former part of this narrative, as prevailing in ſimilar circumſtances all over Turky, but I was ſincerely ſorry to ſee it exemplified by ſo ſolemn an inſtance of its reality. It was time to pauſe a little on my own condition. I was in no diſmay, though it is difficult to imagine a circumſtance of more diſtraction to the affairs of any man, than this to mine. I had learnt the doctrine of reſignation from the practice of the Turks, and with them could find ſolace in a patient ſubmiſſion to the laws of neceſſity. Alla-kerim, ſaid I, God is great*. It was a queſtion with me in that ſituation, whether I ſhould go on to Aleppo, and expoſe myſelf to the danger of a mortification, by bearing two days fatigue and heat, where

* Literally merciful.

a ſurgeon was to be found: or return to Antioch, which was near, in the uncertainty of finding any chirurgical aſſiſtance. In this ſuſpenſe I was providentially overtaken by a French gentleman, Monſ. de Fonton, interpreter to the French nation at Aleppo. My ſervant ſeeing him approach, exclaimed with joy; here is the French dragoman from Scanderoon! I took him to be ſome Greek, as ſuch are uſually employed by our conſuls upon the ſea coaſt; and as they are apt to aſſume an impertinent intereſt in the national differences; I ſet him down as unworthy of my notice. When he came up and pretended to commiſerate with me on my misfortune. I ſaid to him very indifferently; Je vous ſuis bien obligé mon ami, mais, nous ſommes nous autres, én guerre, n' eſt ce pas? meaning that I expected little from him and to humour the ſuppoſed character I had given him, but I was deceived: He was an original Frenchman, humane, well-bred, and whoſe brother I was acquainted with at Conſtantinople. Vous avez tort Monſieur, ſaid he, de vous imaginez comme ça. Je ſerois faché que la guerre nous rendit ſauvage. Vous pouvez vous diſpoſer de moi. I was compleatly chagrined at the ſentiment I had uttered, ſince it happened to be ſo unfortunately applied. Je vous fais milles

excuſes,

excuses, mon cher Monsieur, said I. Je ne pense pas ainsi des François, veuillez bien m'en rendre justice. Je profiterai de votre secours, et de vos bontés. He persuaded me to go on with him to Aleppo, and without a moment's hesitation, I put my arm in a sling and mounted. It was ten o'clock in the morning and excessively hot, but I suff-red no depression of spirits nor alteration in the pulse. We marched four hours to the usual ferrying place, but the boat and people were gone to avoid the outrages of the Basha's people, and we had two hours farther to proceed to find it. We crossed the river, and in three hours more arrived at Salkin (21st post-house) a considerable village on the top of a hill. We halted to pass the night. My friend chose to shave, to get rid of so much of his ghastliness as was added by his grisly beard, and a barber was called. But this barber was a surgeon too, and so well skilled, from great practice, in cases of shot wounds, that he would not shave the painter till he had operated upon me. I consulted Mr. Fonton upon the subject, and we agreed to let him dress the wound. He was dextrous in cutting away the cloaths from my arm. He then probed the wound both ways with an iron probe as thick as my little finger, and finding no fracture, pro-

nounced

nounced that under his care it would ſoon be well. He then compoſed a mixture of honey, melted butter, (as it is prepared for Turkiſh cookery) a quantity of ſalt, and ſome pounded onions, and opening the wound with his probe, poured at leaſt half a pint of it through and through. He then bound it up, brought me a clean ſhirt from his own wardrobe, and counſelled me to be quite reconciled to my fate. Monſ. Fonton was ſo good as to ſuperintend the kitchen, his ſervant having ſtaid behind; and produced an excellent ſoup on which I ſupped and compoſed myſelf for the night. In the morning at five o'clock, (26th May) we reſumed our journey with the ſame alacrity as ever. We continued with the ſame horſes however, along a chain of mountains and bad roads moſt part of our way by the village of Azami to Martevan, where we paſſed the night; and the next morning in four hours march we reached the city of Aleppo. It was upon a Sunday, the 27th day of May, and after a journey of ſeventeen days incluſive from Conſtantinople.

Mr. Abbot the conſul was at prayers with moſt of the gentlemen of the Engliſh factory, in a chapel in the conſulary houſe. I begged not to diſturb him, but that Mr. Freer the ſurgeon might

might be desired to step out to me. He made his appearance in a moment, and with his kind assistance and care, on the 15th of July, I was again able to hold the pen for the first time and to record the suspended account of my journey and disaster.

I TOOK up my residence with Mr. Charles Smith, whose hospitality is universal; with him I calmed my sorrows. My first resolution in these moments of tribulation was to take some steps to recover my papers which were of infinite consequence to my affairs, and by Mr. Smith's advice we had recourse to the following measures. There is an Arab Chief named Sheik Shaaban, who is generally encamped in the neighbourhood of the robbers and is respected by them as a prodigious conjuror and master of divination. The truth is, he profits of this reputation to find out by his ingenuity what appears to them, the effect of inspiration*. We in the first place wrote him a letter accompanied with some presents, and hoped his good genius would patronize our cause. Assuring him further, that in that case, we should answer the effects of his zeal with proper sacrifices and offerings. The other mea-

* Turcoman Jonathan Wild.

ſure was to ſend a letter to Mr. Sholl, Britiſh marine factor, at Scanderoon, deſiring him to gain the authority of Abd-ul-Rahman Baſha of Bylan who was at this time in alliance with the thieves, and to render me with them what good offices were in his power. The return of the meſſenger from the Arab brought me a very civil letter, and many of my papers, but thoſe of moſt conſequence to me remained behind. Mr. Sholl's applications were not attended with ſucceſs. I then ſent another man with promiſes of greater preſents to the Arab Chief, and another to the thieves but without effect. The man who returned from the thieves told me that they were purſued in their retreat from committing the robbery, and dropped many things from the horſes which they left on the way. I flattered myſelf from this, that by a diligent ſearch, the papers might be recovered, and therefore reſolved to make another effort in perſon. Encouraged by this hope, on the 7th of Auguſt I departed from Aleppo on an expedition to the thieves.

Excursion to Ghiavur Dagh, or mountain of infidels, the neſt of the Curdine robbers.

In the opinion that the portmanteau which contained my principal papers was fallen from the

the horſe and that my only hope was of finding it in the plain where the graſs was grown extremely thick and high; I had to provide myſelf with ſuch efficiencies as ſeemed moſt to promiſe ſucceſs in ſuch a deſperate ſearch.

Koider, in the firſt inſtance, a conductor of caravans from Aleppo to Scanderoon, and well known to the robbers, was a neceſſary attendant to eſcort us to their haunts; and to prevail on them when there, to trace back the ground they had rode over in their retreat with their booty. Mr. Smith ſuggeſted to me to take two gypſies, who, he exclaimed, have eyes like hawks: and I thought myſelf, that, a couple of ſpaniels might be uſeful to traverſe the ground before us; becauſe, in the firſt place, the object if they ſhould ſee it by ſurprize would ſet them a barking; or if any ſcent remained in the leather, which it is ſuſceptible of retaining for years, the dogs might diſcover it by that means, where human eye could not penetrate. To compleat our outſet, a Delattia one of the Baſha's horſe guards was thought neceſſary to protect us from the ſoldiers, as far as it was ſafe for him to proceed with us, and unſafe for us to proceed without him, the whole country being in a ſtate of warfare.

With this train therefore and my ſervant Matthew I took my departure for Ghiavur Dagh at three o'clock in the afternoon. In about four hours we got to a village, deſerted, excepting by two or three who remained there, to gather in the remaining corn; upon our approach they concealed themſelves. We ſpread our carpet here, made ſome coffee, turned our horſes into the corn that was treading out, and ſmoaked our pipes in expectation as I ſuppoſed of reſuming our journey in an hour or two. It was moonlight, and after a reaſonable time I would have proceeded, but was oppoſed. There is more danger, my guard ſaid, from the peaſants in the night than from the thieves. We muſt wait till day light. At ſun riſe therefore we mounted and paſſed by ſome villages totally abandoned. At others the harveſt was yet treading out, and the inſtant we were eſpied by the peaſants, they retreated to their houſes, armed, and as we came near them, kept us èn bût. We made ſigns of peace to them by waving our garments in the air, and one of them came running up to us to know our will and pleaſure. He knew Koider, but was ſuſpicious of the Delattia. He made a ſignal of our neutrality to the village, upon which they laid aſide their arms and received

ceived us very kindly. I was not quite easy under this hostile array I confess, and was led to enquire into the cause of this universal mistrust. It was owing to the uncommon cruelty of Abdi Basha's government. He had assembled troops from all parts to reduce the pretended revolt of Killis and Antab, two principal towns in the neighbourhood of Aleppo, and instead of pay to these mercenaries, he gave them free range over the country for sustenance and what plunder might fall to their lot in war. It was like devoting the country to general devastation. They had laid waste all the rich territory of Aleppo, and otherwise so barbarously used the poor peasants, as to force them to take arms in self defence. Every village we passed was upon the qui vive, and altogether exhibited such dangerous and melancholy proofs of the effects of despotism as is scarcely to be described. Our Delattia only served to encrease our danger. We arrived safely however in six hours march over craggy rocks, and in continual alarm, to the encampment of Sheik Shaaban.

He received us politely in the area of his tent, entertained us with pipes and coffee, and promised to give us every assistance in his power. He

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is a venerable old man, not extenuated nor depressed by his years, but sedately complacent, talkative, and affable. He declared that he had sent us all the papers that had been found, and that he had permitted no further communication with the Bagdashlees (the name of the tribe of thieves which robbed me) because Abdi Basha had proclaimed all to be enemies of the Sultan who should be found in intercourse with them. We staid till next morning in this magician's camp, which was numerous and well stocked. He had some good horses picquetted before his tent, which he expressed a deal of pride in. His son, a youth of twenty, was training to the wand effeminately dressed, with large gold ear-rings, and affecting a prodigious sanctity and solemnity of manners. In the night we had a little alert from some pilfering rogues of an inferior order of Arabs, who had crept into the camp and stolen some sheep and fowls in spite of Oberon and all his tribe. Early in the morning we took our leave and pursued our journey across the precise spot of our encounter, marked with the skeletons of our horses which were killed. We continued on to the iron bridge, and rested there during the heat of the day. Many Turkman encampments were to be seen in the

neigh-

neighbourhood, and many of their people paſſed the bridge upon their daily ſcout for melons from the cultivated grounds. An affray happened in our preſence, in which one of their party was killed, and ſet them all upon the ſcout back again, with fell revenge in their looks. I expected to ſee ſome bloody ſcene, but our route laying a different way, for this time I was diſappointed. At night we reſted in a neighbouring village, and early in the morning arranged our party for the purſuit of the day. A dozen peaſants with guns, ourſelves, our dogs and gypſies wandered over that part of the plain moſt likely to reward our pains, but without effect; the next day ended as unſucceſsfully, and reſolved me then to go among the thieves.

I HOPED that they might ſtill have concealed the portmanteau in expectation of a better reward, and I determined to engage them to diſcover it at any price. It was my laſt hope, and away I went the ſame evening to Antioch, paſſed the night there, and continued in the morning my route to the mountains. At ten we reached Karamut Khan, the entrance of the defile which leads to Bylan, and guarded by an officer of Abd-ul-Raham Baſha's, to oppoſe any hoſtile

attempt from Abdi Basha's troops. We were neutral people, and upon an expedition to the thieves, the allies of Abd-ul-Rahman Basha, and therefore welcome. This captain of the guard was a stout fellow and laughed with all his heart, at the threats of Abdi Basha. He informed us of the situation of the Bagdashlees, and in about an hour we proceeded on our way to find them. We were within ten minutes ride of the town of Bylan, when a friend of Koider's met us, and told us the thieves were in a village, half an hour's march from the road side. I sent him to them to fix the time and place of an interview, which they appointed for the next day, with an invitation to dine. In the mean time I went and lodged at Mr. Sholl's house at Bylan; and when the hour of appointment was come, I mounted and repaired to the rendezvous. The situation was among mountains, and marked by a few detached huts in which they usually reside: fifteen in number were sitting round the edge of a mat spread upon the ground. Upon my approach they rose to receive me, but seated themselves again when I had taken my place. They had every one a gun sling over his shoulder, and were equipped in the trophies they had won. Some of them had my cloaths on, and others

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the bloody ſpoils of poor Selim and Emin; they were in their eſtimation well earned triumphs of their victory. My firſt ſalute was, health to my friends! Who can avert the will of fate? Peace to you, ſaid they; welcome, welcome. I was then ſerved with ſome water by one of the thieves to waſh my hands; and after that came dinner. It conſiſted of a whole ſheep roaſted and ſtuffed with rice and dried raiſins; a large pilo beſides, and ſome diſhes of ragou'd meats, with melons, honey, eggs, onions, and every thing that was palatable. I was not an utter ſtranger to this kind of living, and could acquit myſelf in the original uſe of my hands and fingers with ſome dexterity. This ceremony over, water was again brought, and then pipes and coffee. This was the time for buſineſs, and I addreſſed them. We muſt praiſe God for all things; I come not to upbraid you; the ſlain are at reſt, my wounds are healed, the ſpoil you have divided; I come a ſuitor to your favour. On my head, ſaid one of them, you ſhall be ſatisfied. Long may you live! Koider has explained my wiſhes to you; the papers which are miſſing are of great concern to me; if you know where they are, let me have them. They threw down ſome papers of real importance to me. Thanks for theſe ſaid I,

have you no more? By the beard of Koider you ſhould have them! what are papers to us? you ſhould have all the papers in the univerſe for a creiſh: but you may have dropt them on the plain, they may be found. Found! the Turkmans are encamped there by thouſands; do they leave any thing? they have burnt the weed all over the plain. Well God be thanked; I'll ſay no more about them. But let me aſk you, you lead a happy life here; of how many does your tribe conſiſt? Two hundred and fifty families. Abdi Baſha is coming to exterminate you. Exterminate! ſaid one of them, and burſt into a fit of laughter. Why what reſiſtance can you make to an whole army? Our mountain will reſiſt him, beſides are there no more thieves do you think than the Bagdaſhlees? You have the greateſt renown, what other tribes are there? Hey! to ſignify innumerable, the Curdes, they are all thieves: there are the Sleikhan, Abbagee, Aſhkurbaglee, Chaillee, Dellibekerlee, Sareeſeklee, Kiubanlee, Cutchukallee, Ravidlee, Chakallee, Jourlee, and Azillee, all the way from Bylan to Perſia. Some work to ſubdue theſe! You are brave fellows; but if we meet again? fear nought, we'll eſcort you to the gates of Aleppo. I took my leave. We all mounted. They took the

road down to the plain, and I to Bylan, whence I inſtantly diſpatched my ſervant Matthew with letters to Mr. Smith, begging him to ſend me a Tartar with the proper muniments to take me to Conſtantinople.

Before he could come five days neceſſarily elapſed, and in this time I frequently ſaw the thieves; rode about the country, got acquainted with Abd-ul-Rahman Baſha, and was witneſs during my ſtay, to the paſſage of that part of the caravan of pilgrims, called the diviſion of leſſer Aſia, on its way to Mecca. It is the moſt ſplendid of any, being generally accompanied by ſome of the Sultan's family, and compoſed otherwiſe of the principal men of the empire. Abd-ul-Rhaman Baſha poſſeſſes the ſtrait of Bylan, where this caravan was unavoidably obliged to paſs, and which as the Porte had thought fit to treat him with the epithet of Rebel, he had taken care to defend. It became neceſſary therefore to negociate for the privilege of going through this ſtrait; and that the credit of their religion, on which the Turkiſh government turns as upon a pivot, might receive no indignity, they deemed it politic to loſe no time about it. The Baſha was applied to, and he as readily conſented. Not

to be taken by ſurprize, and to have a pretext for keeping the whole town armed while they remained at or near the place. A public wedding was ſolemnized, and all the great men of the caravan deſired to aſſiſt at it. There was a prodigious affectation of joy and merriment upon the occaſion. The pilgrims who were ſuppoſed to be feaſted, were ſurrounded by the Baſha's troops, of courſe not very eaſy in ſuch a ſituation; while the Baſha was laughing in his ſleeve at the borrowed complacency and ſatisfaction they were conſtrained to put on.

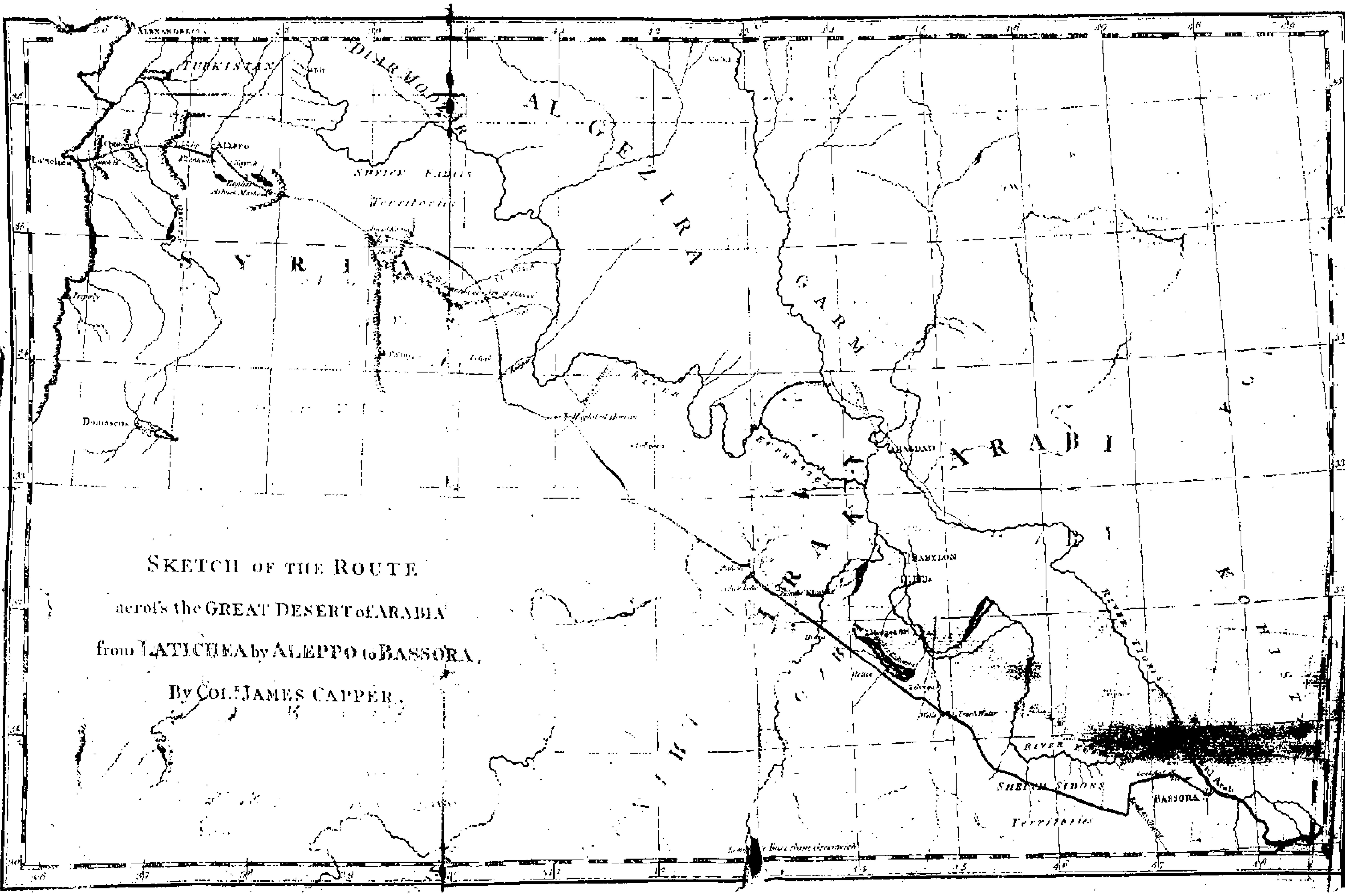
They had pitched their camp at the foot of the mountain, on each ſide the rivulet in the vale. Bylan is built on the ſlope or deſcent of a rock that hangs over the town. The ſite is at the termination of a cul de ſac, formed by a dreadful chaſm in the mountain. Before you through the aperture of the rock is the ſea. To the right and left, rocks and hills of a great height. On the verge of the rock ſtood my dwelling, beſide which ran a conſtant ſtream of water thence ruſhing down the precipice, and forming a pool in the valley underneath. A cool inceſſant breeze plays round the hills; I was charmed with the beauty of the ſcene. It is

the retreat of thoſe poor Europeans whoſe lot it is to live at Scanderoon for the purpoſes of trade. And a heaven it is contraſted with that helliſh focus, of ſcorching heats and deadly fevers.

I LEFT Bylan on the 24th of Auguſt to return to Conſtantinople. My journey back varied only in the following inſtances. Inſtead of taking the road from Antioch to Sovadee, I came to Bylan, a ten hour's ride, partly upon the plain but chiefly among mountains. From Bylan I went to Byaſs, ſeven hours, along the ſea ſide, partly on the ſtrand, and partly upon the rocks. From Byaſs we continued along the ſea ſhore nine hours to Kat Callah and from Kat Callah acroſs the plain in twelve hours to Adena. Inſtead of going from Bulla Wadin to the hamlet I had digreſſed to in coming; I went to Corſuff Baſha, and kept the high road all the way from Aleppo to Conſtantinople. I had diſmiſſed my ſervant Matthew as an uſeleſs mobile, and had no companion but my ſorry decrepid Tartar. I had great reaſon to lament and regret the abſence of my honeſt friend Selim; but a lively fellow of a Boſnian Tartar, overtaking us upon the road beyond Conia, whip and ſpûr, and giving me a challenge to go on with him; I left my

poor

poor wretch to take care of himſelf, and went off full ſpeed, travelling night and day to our journey's end.


SKETCH OF THE ROUTE
acrofs the GREAT DESERT of ARABIA
from LATICHEA by ALEPPO to BASSORA,
By COL.L JAMES CAPPER.
TURKISTAN
AL GEZIRA
SYRIA
GARM
ARABI
BAGDAD
BABYLON
BASSORA
EUPHRATES
Damascus
Territories

A
JOURNAL
ACROSS THE
GREAT DESERT,
FROM
BASSORA to ALEPPO.

BY way of introduction to this journal I ſhall beg leave to premiſe, that if Government or the Eaſt India Company ſhould have occaſion to ſend diſpatches by Baſſora, after the ſeaſon is paſt for tranſmitting them through Egypt; the moſt expeditious and leaſt expenſive manner, is by ſending duplicates of the letters to our miniſter at Vienna, who will forward them to the miniſter at Conſtantinople: from thence one copy may be tranſmitted to Aleppo, and another to Bagdad, both of which in all probability will arrive at Baſſora from England, in leſs than two months. The poſt from England to Vienna, and a courier

rier to Conſtantinople, will travel faſter and cheaper than any gentleman; as will alſo the Tartar couriers from thence to Aleppo and Bagdad; and when the letters contain any order or information of more than common importance; to enſure their ſafe arrival, a ſecond ſet of duplicates may be ſent to Vienna, and Conſtantinople, within a week after the departure of the firſt. But ſometimes it may happen that a perſon muſt be ſent by this route, not only to convey the orders to India, but alſo to carry them into execution; in which caſe he ſhould conſider whether he is equal to the fatigue of travelling all the way by land to Baſſora; if not he ſhould go from ſome of the ports in the Mediterranean to Latichea or Alexandretta by ſea: the former is unqueſtionably the leaſt ſubject to delays from wind and weather, but then it is alſo by much the moſt dangerous, fatiguing, and expenſive; beſides there are but few men who are able to bear the fatigue of riding poſt from Vienna to Conſtantinople, and from thence to Aleppo in the winter ſeaſon; and the paſſage by ſea may be greatly ſhortened by embarking at ſome of the ports in the S. E. part of Italy. Upon ſumming up therefore all theſe different reaſons, we may reaſonably conclude; that letters

ters ſhould be ſent to Baſſora all the way by land; but that a geutleman had better go part of the way to Syria by ſea. Two days only were allowed me to prepare for this journey, and therefore in the midſt of ſettling my own private concerns, I had not leiſure to conſider what route I had beſt take; the orders given me were to go by Holland to Venice or Leghorn; in conſequence of which I loſt many days, which would have been ſaved if I had followed the abovementioned plan of going farther to the ſouthward before I embarked.

It muſt be entirely unneceſſary to give an account of my journey to Leghorn, the way to that city being ſo well known; ſuffice it to ſay then, that it was performed in eighteen days, notwithſtanding I went round by Venice, and was detained near two days on the road; firſt by the poſt-maſter of Gorcum in Holland, who refuſed to give us horſes to travel in the night; and afterwards by an accident happening to the carriage.

The Conſul at Leghorn on our arrival there, freighted a Raguſian ſnow of 220 tons to convey us to Latichea or Alexandretta, which was ready to receive us on the 27th of September 1778,

 but

but the wind being foul we did not go on board until the 29th at ſix in the evening. As this Journal is not intended as a direction for mariners, I ſhall put down the time according to the common way of reckoning, that is from twelve at night, and not according to the aſtronomical day, of twelve at noon.

On the 29th of September, 1778. At night we ſtood out to ſea, and got a tolerable good offing.

September 30th. The wind S. E. blowing exceedingly hard all night: in the morning we ſaw a ſail, and likewiſe the iſland of Caprara, bearing about eaſt, diſtance ſeven miles, and the North end of Corſica W. S. W. The wind in the morning moderate.

October 1ſt. Variable winds and calm, ſaw the iſland of Elba, bearing S. E. diſtant about ſix leagues, and the iſland of Pianoſa S. by E. diſtance about nine leagues, the weather cloudy; in the evening the wind veered about to the E. S. E. no obſervation.

October 2d. Variable winds and ſometimes calm, ſaw the iſland of Monte Chriſto, bearing E. by S. diſtance ſeven leagues, and found a current

current ſetting to the S. E. latitude obſerved 42. 9. N.

OCTOBER 3d. In the morning light airs, and ſometimes calm: in the evening began to blow freſh from the S. W. increaſing at night.

OCTOBER 4th. Continued blowing very freſh till about ten o'clock, when all at once the wind ſlackened, and for about an hour it became calm; and then began to blow very hard from S. S. W. we continued all night under cloſe-reefed top-ſails.

OCTOBER 5th. Light airs and calm all the day; in the night the wind freſhened at S. by E. latitude obſerved 40. 32.

OCTOBER 6th. Calm all the morning and very hot weather; about two in the afternoon a breeze ſprung up from the S. S. W. with ſmall rain and very thick weather. In the night ſaw a large Mooriſh veſſel ſtanding to the northward, latitude obſerved 40. 21. N.

OCTOBER 7th. Wind at S. by E. blowing very hard all the twenty-four hours, a prodigious high ſea, no obſervation.

OCTOBER 8th. Wind till twelve o'clock S. by E. from thence to S. S. W. blowing very

fresh and a heavy sea: saw a vessel in the afternoon standing to the N. W. latitude observed 40. 10. N.

OCTOBER 9th. Wind from S. to S. W. a fresh breeze and pleasant weather, latitude observed 39. 40.

OCTOBER 10th. Wind S. W. a fresh gale and pleasant weather, at day-light in the morning saw the island of Sicily, and the other islands near it; Lipari, Salini, Stromboli, &c. stood in shore till we were within about five miles of the land, and then stood off and on all night, no observation.

OCTOBER 11th. Wind S. S. W. rather a fresh breeze about two o'clock in the morning, made sail for the Pharo Messina, a pilot came alongside about seven in the morning, and took the ship through the entrance of the Pharo, which is about three miles broad. We passed within twenty yards or less of the shore of Sicily: the price of the pilotage is not fixed, but depends upon the weather, which being moderate, we paid only two chequins and a half; they often demand five, and sometimes twenty. Ever since the great plague at Messina, there has been a quarantine of seven days, even between the

coast

coaſt of Calabria and Meſſina; the uſual quarantine there from the Levant is at leaſt forty days, and on the moſt trifling report of a plague, they will not permit any body to land; in which caſe moſt veſſels go to Malta. The center of the channel bears about E. S. E. and W. N. W. the wind being favourable and the weather fair, I remained on deck the whole day to enjoy a ſucceſſion of the moſt beautiful views I ever beheld, which would afford a variety of fine ſubjects for our beſt landſcape painters. Off Reggio we ſaw two French xebeques lying at anchor, but they took no notice of us, nor of a Sicilian veſſel, though neither of us ſhewed our colours. The Sicilian veſſels always keep a boat a-ſtern, in order to enable the crew to make their eſcape if they ſhould fall in with a Barbary corſair; in which caſe they always run the ſhip as near as poſſible to the ſhore, and taking to the boats, land and fly into the woods: we ſaw the top of Mount Ætna covered with ſmoak, but it has ceaſed emitting fire ſome years paſt. About ſix in the evening we got through the ſtraits.

October 12th. Wind N. W. a pleaſant breeze and very fine weather, the ſouthermoſt part of Sicily in ſight bearing S. W. and Cape

Spar-

Spartivento the ſouthermoſt point of Italy N. N. W. diſtance about fourteen leagues. Saw and ſpoke with a very clean Raguſian veſſel homeward bound from Genoa. Latitude obſerved 37. 25. N.

OCTOBER 13th. Wind S. W. by S. a light breeze and very ſmooth water, with fine clear weather, latitude obſerved 37. 8. N.

OCTOBER 14th. A light breeze from S. W. in the morning, which veered in the evening to S. by E. fine pleaſant weather and a ſmooth ſea, at eight at night ſaw an Aurora Borealis which continued exceedingly bright for more than an hour. Latitude obſerved 36. 34. N.

OCTOBER 15th. Wind from S. by W. to E. S. E. blew freſh and a confuſed ſea, in the night the wind came round more to the ſouthward, at eleven o'clock tacked, no obſervation.

OCTOBER 16th. Wind S. W. the firſt part of the day light breezes, increaſing towards the evening to a moderate gale, rather hazy weather and a very heavy confuſed ſea, latitude obſerved 36. 2. N.

OCTOBER 17th. Wind W. S. W. a freſh gale and pleaſant weather for moſt part of the

day;

day; about noon a little ſquall of rain, latitude obſerved 35. 19. N.

October 18th. Wind S. W. a fine freſh breeze, and hazy weather, about five in the morning one of the ſailors fell off the main yard overboard; we hoiſted out the boat and ſaved him after he had been twenty minutes in the water. At ſeven in the morning we ſaw three French ſhips, at ten ſpoke to one of them, they were all from Smyrna and bound to Marſeilles, they ſent a boat on board to enquire whether war was declared between England and France, but our Captain pleaded ignorance: to avoid being known I had aſſumed the dreſs of an Italian ſailor and therefore paſſed unnoticed with the reſt. At half paſt five in the evening ſaw the land bearing N. E. diſtant five leagues, we imagined it to be Goza off the N. E. end of Candia.

October 19th. Wind W. S. W. a fine breeze and very pleaſant weather, ſaw the iſland of Candia, at ſix in the evening Cape Soliman bearing N. N. W. diſtant about eight leagues, latitude obſerved 34. 44. N.

October 20th. Wind N. increaſing gale and pleaſant weather, latitude obſerved 34. 34. N.

October 21ſt. Wind N. N. W. very light airs and ſometimes calm, latitude obſerved 34. 31. N.

October 22d. Wind N. N. W. a light breeze in the morning, all the evening calm, latitude obſerved 34. 21. N.

October 23d. Wind in the morning at N. W. at three in the afternoon at W. by N. light airs and rather increaſing; in the evening, ſaw the iſland of Cyprus, the next morning Cape Baffa appeared bearing about N. E. diſtant about twelve leagues, Cape Blanco N. by E. diſtant five leagues, Cape Gatto E. by N. nine leagues. Near Baffa was ſituated the ancient Paphos, of which probably Baffa is only a corruption. In the country near this Cape the women are ſtill remarkably beautiful, in other parts of the Iſland they are rather plain. The Captain finding a great and unexpected ſcarcity of water, determined to come to an anchor for a few hours at Lernica in order to get a ſupply; latitude obſerved 34. 22.

October 24th. Wind S. W. blowing rather freſh from ten in the morning, found a current ſetting W. S. W. it drove us twenty-one miles in twenty-four hours, Cape Gatto N. ½ E.

½ E. diſtant about five leagues, latitude obſerved 34. 36. At five in the evening arrived in the road of Lernica, the landing place bearing W. by S. and the flag of the Engliſh factory W. N. W. diſtant off ſhore about a mile and a half. Found lying here a French frigate from Malta; in the evening we went on ſhore to the Raguſian Conſul's houſe, whom we enjoined ſtrict ſecrecy, and obliged him before his ſervants to treat us as common ſailors; we returned on board again about eight at night. The town is built as other common Turkiſh towns are, with bricks dried in the ſun. After we went on ſhore, a boat from the French frigate went on board our veſſel, but did not diſcover any thing relating to us. We ſaw the Engliſh Conſul on ſhore, but he did not know us in our diſguiſe of Italian ſailors; and we did not make ourſelves known to him, leſt his ſervants might publiſh our arrival.

October 25th. In the morning till about ten o'clock calm, then a light breeze ſprang up from the E. S. E. at eleven the captain came on board with a Greek Pilot, and we weighed anchor with an increaſing wind, ſaluted the French frigate when we got under way with five guns, ſhe returned only one.

October 26th. Wind variable moſtly from the S. W. and frequently calm; in the night quite calm; at day-break ſaw part of the coaſt of Syria; in the evening at ſun-ſet the mountains of Antioch diſtant about fifteen leagues, latitude obſerved 35. 2. N.

October 27th. Light breeze at N. E. by N. Latichea bearing about N. E. ½ E. about eight leagues diſtant. Stood off and on all night the wind being contrary, we could not get into port, and we began to be apprehenſive that the captain of the French frigate would by ſome accident hear of our being on board, and follow to make us priſoners. Saw ſeveral lights on the ſhore in the night.

October 28th. Light winds at N. E. Latichea bearing N. E. by E. in the evening came on board three French boats belonging to merchant veſſels then laying in the harbour to aſſiſt us in getting in. At nine at night towed by the boats, we came to an anchor in eight fathom off the entrance of the port.

October 29th. In the morning we went on ſhore to the houſe of Mr. Sciperas, Engliſh Vice Conſul under Mr. Abbot at Aleppo, to whom

we ſent a letter announcing our arrival, and informing him of our buſineſs.

The preſent city of Latichea lies about a quarter of a mile from the old port, which in its priſtine ſtate muſt have been a moſt expenſive and magnificent work, but is now in ruins; and the ground like that of the new port of Alexandria, ſo foul from the blocks of marble and ſtone that are fallen into it, as to deſtroy the cables of ſhips. The adjacent country was once famous for producing excellent wine, but there is none made now; which as the country ſtill produces abundance of grapes, and the Mahomedans would not object to their being made into wine; can only be imputed to the ignorance or the indolence of the Chriſtians and Jews, who together conſtitute the major part of the inhabitants. The tobacco of this country is in very high eſteem with the Turks and Arabians, and is now produced in ſuch quantities as ſupply the greateſt part of the Turkiſh empire; it is particularly ſent to Damietta in Egypt, where it is exchanged for coffee that comes thither from Mocha, and alſo for the rice that grows in the Delta. Was this country under a good government, and were the inha-

bitants inclined to be induſtrious; with the advantages they have of a fertile ſoil, and a fine climate, they might poſſeſs not only every comfort, but alſo every luxury this world produces: a remark indeed! equally applicable to almoſt the whole of the Turkiſh empire, which is unqueſtionably the fineſt part, at leaſt of the old world. Where nature has been ſo bounteous, it is a pity her choiceſt gifts have been ſo badly beſtowed.

October 30th. We remained at Latichea getting our baggage on ſhore, and ſettling accounts with the captain. What leiſure time we had both this day and the next was ſpent in walking about the city, and examining the environs of it, in which there are many noble monuments of antiquity in a very ruinous ſtate: towards the S. E. part of the preſent city is a large triumphal arch, ſupported on columns of the Corinthian order, and which now makes part of a moſque: the architrave is adorned with antient military trophies, and there are many Greek inſcriptions about the different parts of the building; but theſe have probably been much defaced by the Mahomedans. About half a mile north of the city we ſaw ſeveral ſepulchral chambers, in which many ſtone coffins

coffins are depofited in fmall niches exactly made to receive them. In the center of one of thefe vaults is a fpring, the water of which is faid to produce very miraculous effects; not only curing all forts of diforders, but alfo enduing people with the gift of highland fecond fight; the Greeks call it the cavern of St. Tecla.

Saturday, November 1ft. At eight o'clock in the morning we fat out for Aleppo on horfeback, with mules to carry the baggage, and efcorted by two Janizaries; the firft part of the road was a ftrong uneven country: about ten o'clock we croffed a rivulet, and in the forenoon began to enter the hills which are covered with wood; the road through them is narrow, and the afcents and defcents are fteep, but the horfes being fure-footed and accuftomed to the road, we met not with the leaft accident; the foil is a kind of chalk, and large loofe ftones: the harveft and vintage had been over fome time, but the peafants brought us fome grapes they were drying for their winter ftock. At three in the afternoon the muleteers ftopped near a fmall hovel, where they demanded a kafar of four dollars; the diftance from Latichea I fhould fuppofe to be about twenty-five miles. As there was

no houſe near we were obliged to ſleep in the open air by the road ſide.

November 2d. At two in the morning we proceeded on our journey, and ſtopped about noon at the town of Chokoor, commonly called Shogre, where the governor ordered us to halt for the night. The caravanſera being dirty we paſſed through the town, and lay in an open field to the S. E. of the town, on the banks of the river Orontes. On this day's journey we paſſed over many chalk hills reflecting a very ſtrong heat, but the road was much better than that we had paſſed over the preceding day: we ſaw both to the right and to the left of us many conſiderable towns and ſome villages, the inhabitants of which brought us great variety of grapes. The town of Chokoor is ſituated on the Weſt ſide of the river Orontes, and is ſurrounded by a very beautiful country. A man who called himſelf a catholic prieſt, but dreſſed like a Turk, and who ſpoke no European language, offered us an apartment in his houſe in the town; but we preferred the field in order to get away early in the morning, before the gates would be opened. The moon ſhining exceedingly bright, at midnight we began to prepare for our departure;

but

but were detained by a fresh order from the Governor, who sent us word he had information of some Bedouins being in the road; and that in the morning he should send a guard with some money to Aleppo, who would also escort us.

NOVEMBER 3d. About four o'clock we left Chokoor, accompanied by a large caravan, and escorted by horse and foot. At six in the morning we came to a kind of custom-house, where they receive the kafar; at which place the people made us halt and dismount, till the whole caravan came up to pass the hills together. We were told the Arabs were posted among the hills in the front, however we saw nothing of them; two Turkish horsemen exceedingly well mounted and armed, who composed a part of our guard, advanced in front with us to reconnoitre. We were about an hour in passing the hills; the road over them was exceedingly bad, but afterwards we went through a very fine country, where we saw a great variety of vines, and also fig and olive trees. About three o'clock we stopped at the town of Adelip, or Eidlip, at a small house in the suburbs: our comrades the Turkish soldiers had interest enough in the town to get us a very excellent pilo and some fruit, of which without

much

much entreaty we prevailed on them to partake; we found them very ſociable and uſeful companions; one of them had ſerved againſt the Ruſſians, and gave us a very good account of the war.

November 4th. At two in the morning we proceeded on our journey over a very ſtoney road, and kept a few hundred yards in front of the caravan, until we arrived at Khantaman; and then about nine o'clock in the morning advanced by ourſelves over a hilly and ſtoney country to Aleppo. We got thither in about two hours and a half, and our baggage arrived about two hours after us. Some Arabs on bad horſes ſeeing us without any attendance, endeavoured to terrify us with an account of there being plunderers on the road, but no perſon attempted to moleſt us; however Mr. Abbot informed us we had been imprudent in quitting our guards.

To attempt giving a deſcription of a place ſo well known as Aleppo would be ridiculous, eſpecially as we had but little leiſure for obſervation. Dr. Ruſſel who reſided many years in this city, has written a full and accurate account of it, which I would recommend to the peruſal of every perſon who wiſhes to be acquainted ei-

ther with the natural hiſtory of the country, or the manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants. I ſhall principally confine myſelf to a detail of our own proceedings.

Upon our arrival we waited on Mr. Conſul Abbot who very kindly invited us to take up our reſidence in his houſe. When a ſtranger comes to remain any time in the city, it is cuſtomary for every European gentleman in the place to pay him a viſit, which of courſe muſt be returned; but as we were only ſojourners, Mr. Abbot had prevailed on them to diſpenſe with this ceremony with reſpect to us. He however conſtantly invited company to his houſe every day, by which means we had the pleaſure of ſeeing all the ladies and gentlemen of the place. The language moſt in uſe amongſt the Europeans is the Italian; however moſt of them ſpeak alſo the French and Engliſh, and many of the ladies are converſant in modern Greek, Turkiſh, and Arabic. The European languages they acquire from each other, the Greek from the women ſervants, and Arabic from the inhabitants of the country and their men ſervants. Even the children ſpeak the major part of theſe languages with fluency and correctneſs. The Eu-

ropeans by a general ſubſcription have built a ſmall theatre, which they have fitted up with great taſte. During the winter ſeaſon they perform French and Italian comedies, and even ſometimes attempt operas with very great ſucceſs; they politely offered to exhibit ſome little piece to amuſe us, but the houſe being diſmantled for the ſummer, we could not ſtay long enough for them to make the neceſſary preparations. We declined accepting all invitations of either dinners or ſuppers, but Monſieur Perdriaux, the French conſul, would not hear of a refuſal, he inſiſted upon our meeting a ſmall private party, which he entertained with great elegance and good humour.

The conſuls of all nations always wear the European dreſs, but the gentlemen of the factories generally put on the Beniſh or long Turkiſh robe, with a hat and wig, which has an uncouth not to ſay a ridiculous appearance. Surely it would be both more convenient and becoming, either to confine themſelves to the European cloaths, or elſe to adopt entirely thoſe of the Turks. The cuſtom of wearing the hat in the room with the ladies, ſtrikes a ſtranger alſo as being very extraordinary; but this is done in

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compliance with the opinions of the Mahomedans, who deem it indecent to appear with the head uncovered.

As there was no caravan likely to ſet out for Baſſora, the Conſul was obliged to form a light caravan expreſsly for us. He at firſt agreed with an Arabian Sheick or Chief for an eſcort of forty men to ſet out in a few days, and the Sheick as uſual was to furniſh camels for carrying ourſelves, our baggage and proviſions; but a Jew merchant hearing of our intention, offered to double the eſcort, provided we would take thirty camels loaded with goods for him to Graine. After ſome deliberation his propoſals were agreed to, on condition that he would alſo ſend two camels for each load of goods; theſe points being ſettled, a new agreement was drawn up with the Sheick, of which the following is a literal tranſlation.

Tranſlation of a contract with the Sheick Suliman for an eſcort of Arabs acroſs the Great Deſert from Aleppo to Baſſora.

"THIS writing is to certify, that we the underwritten of the tribe of Arabs Nigadi, have

of

of our own free will agreed to accompany and conduct the bearer of this contract, Colonel Capper, an Englishman, and those of his company: and that we oblige ourselves to take with us seventy guards of the tribes of Arabs Nigadi, and Agalli, and Benni Khaled, who are all to be armed with muskets: we the underwritten are included in the number, excepting Sheick Haggi Suliman Eben Adeyeh.—And we do promise also to carry with us nine refeeks with their muskets, two of whom of the two different tribes called Edgeless, two of the two tribes of Il Fedaan, one of the tribe of Welled Aly, one of the tribe of Benni Waheb, one of the tribe of Lacruti, one of the tribe of Baigee, and one of the tribe of Sarhaani, making in all nine refeeks as above-mentioned.

And it is agreed, that we the underwritten are to bring with us our own provisions for the guards and refeeks above-mentioned, and the same provisions are to be loaded upon our camels, the hire of which camels is to be paid by us; and we likewise agree to buy ourselves thirteen rotolas of gunpowder, and twenty-six rotolas of balls, the cost of all the aforesaid things are to be paid by us, and not by Colonel Capper.

And we alſo oblige ourſelves to provide for him and his people nineteen camels, for the uſe of himſelf and his company, to carry their tents and baggage, water and proviſions for themſelves and for their horſes, beſides thoſe nineteen camels above-mentioned; we alſo oblige ourſelves to provide them two other ſtrong camels to carry the mohafa, in order that they may change every day one camel, and to provide a perſon to lead the camel that carries the mohafa from Aleppo to Graine, and moreover we will appoint him a perſon to take care of his horſes.

We the underwritten do promiſe Colonel Capper, by our own free will and conſent, and oblige ourſelves to pay all kafars and giawayez (that is to ſay duties) to all the Arabs, and to the Sheick Tamur, the Sheick Tiveini, and all the Sheicks of the tribe of Beni Khaled, and to all other tribes of Arabs whatever; and we make ourſelves reſponſible for all what is above-written, and further when we approach the tribe of Arabs called Il Aſlam, and Shammer and any other tribes, we oblige ourſelves to take from them a refeek to walk with us till we have paſſed their confines,

We agree to carry no goods, or even letters from any other perſon or perſons, excepting the goods from Khwaja Rubens, which are thirty-one loads, for the hire of the ſaid goods from Khwaja Rubens we have received in full, that is, the hire, the inamalumi, the refeeks, the giawayez, ſigmaniah, and all other expences to Graine; we have received of him in full, according to the receipt in the hands of the ſaid Khwaja Rubens: moreover we have agreed with our free will to provide for the ſaid thirty-one loads, for every load two camels, in order to keep up with the above-mentioned Colonel Capper, and never ſeparate from his company till our arrival at Graine; and we alſo oblige ourſelves to pay the dolleels (ſcouts) the maadeb, the birakdar, and the chaous (officers of the guards) all the ſaid perſons we are to pay ourſelves, and not Colonel Capper. We have agreed alſo with our free will, with the ſaid Colonel Capper, to carry him and his company ſafe in thirty-ſix days to Graine, from the day we depart from the village of Nayreb; but in caſe the ſaid Colonel Capper ſhould be deſirous of ſtaying to reſt a day or more the ſaid delay is not to be reckoned in the aforeſaid thirty-ſix days. And we the underwritten alſo engage three days before our arrival at Graine,

to

to dispatch a messenger from our parts with Colonel Capper's letter to the agent of the British nation in Graine. And by this instrument it is stipulated and agreed between the said Colonel Capper and us the underwritten persons, that he pays us for all the services above-mentioned dollars nine hundred forty-one and one fourth in Aleppo, which sum we have received in full; besides which the said Colonel Capper does oblige himself to give us on the road dollars five hundred; and moreover on our safe arrival at Graine, on our having fulfilled this our agreement with him, he the said Colonel Capper obliges himself to pay us dollars eight hundred rumi, and in case we should fail in performing any part of our agreement with him, we then are to forfeit the last-mentioned eight hundred dollars, and all we the underwritten are responsible one for the other, for the performance of the promises as above agreed between the contracting parties. In witness whereof, we have signed with our fingers this the sixteenth day of the moon called Shewal, in the year of the Hegira, one thousand one hundred and ninety-two.

Suliman Ebben Adeyah—Mohamed il Bisshir —Ally Ebben Faddil—Haggy Isa Ebben Hameidan

meidan—Naffeh Ebn Resheidan—Suliman Ebben Gaddib—Mohamed Ebn Nidghem—Suliman Ebben Naaisay.

The witnesses to the agreement are.

Il Haggi Omar Ulleed—Ismael Estracy—Il Haggi Mahomed Firous—Il Haggi Ibrahim Ulbed—Il Haggi Mahomed Emin il Takrity—Il Haggi Fathu Ebn il Haggi Usuph Maadaraloy—Ismael Ebben Achmed Tecrity.

In this manner all caravans that cross the great desert are formed; that is to say, an Arab Sheick or Chief of known good character and great experience, engages a certain number of refeeks or associates to join with him in furnishing the merchants of the different cities with camels, to transport their goods from one place to another; and also each of the refeeks engages to bring a certain number of armed men to ensure the safety of the caravan across the desert. The refeeks are taken from different tribes, in order to lessen the risque of being attacked; for each of them carries the colour or ensign belonging to his tribe, all which colours are displayed upon the appearance of a party on the desert; and if the party belongs to the same tribe as any of the refeeks,

the principal Sheick or Chief of each tribe, having generally half of what each refeek receives from the merchants; the caravan of course passes unmolested. The first-mentioned Sheick reserves to himself the executive power and command in chief of the caravan; but in cases where there is time for deliberation, a council of all the refeeks is called, and the point in debate is settled by a majority of voices.

Many travellers give the Arabs an exceeding bad character, representing them as a faithless and rapacious people, in whom no confidence can be reposed. I confess they do not appear to me in that light; they certainly like most men endeavour to make the best bargain they can for themselves; but for my own part, I never found them inclined to exact more than was justly their due. My reasons for thinking favorably of them will appear in the course of my journal.

On the 10th of October, in the morning our baggage, servants, and camels left Aleppo; and in the morning of the same day we took leave of our friends, and I am sure on our parts, not without very sensible concern at leaving such an agreeable society. We found our encampment at the village of Nayreb, about six miles from

Aleppo, where the Conſul had ſent his ſervant with a ſupper; we paſſed the night in an Arabian houſe as agreeably as could be expected all circumſtances conſidered.

On the 11th, at day-break in the morning the Conſul aſſembled all the principal Arabs, our ſervants, and in ſhort all our dependants; and having given them his final inſtructions with poſitive commands to treat us with the greateſt reſpect, he and his brother returned to Aleppo. Mr. Shaw, one of his clerks ſtayed to go another ſtage with us, in order that we might by his means be ſupplied with any thing we might have forgotten, whilſt we were in the neighbourhood of Aleppo. At ſeven in the morning, we marched, and in nine hours arrived at the ruined village of Haglier; at the diſtance of about two miles from it we ſaw a ſalt water lake, the length of which appeared to be upwards of ten miles, to the right were ſome hills not very high. About two miles from Haglier we paſſed a large village of houſes, ſhaped like bee-hives, near to which we met about fifty Arab horſemen, but they did not offer to moleſt us: the road was good all the way, at four o'clock in the evening we encamped on a hill.

November 12th. We remained at Haglier to get water and feed the camels, ſo that they might travel two or three days without a freſh ſupply. As my valet de chambre was ſick, I endeavoured to prevail on him to return to Aleppo, but he being violently againſt it, I did not ſend him away; however at the ſame time not to be diſtreſſed for a ſervant I prevailed on Mr. Shaw to leave his man an Armenian who was accuſtomed to travelling, and who agreed to go with us for one hundred dollars and his expences paid back. Mr. Shaw left us about four o'clock in the afternoon, we had a little rain about eleven o'clock, the wind at S. W. In the evening we were joined by a ſmall caravan going to Bagdad. Our own party to paſs the deſert now conſiſted of Major Thomſon, whom I met at Aleppo in his way to India; Mr. C. Dighton who accompanied me from Europe; Jean Cadeo a Frenchman my valet de chambre; Babeck a cook hired at Aleppo; and Mr. Shaw's ſervant an Armenian, eighty armed Arabs, ten of which were Sheicks or Chiefs, and the reſt their ſervants and dependants. Khawja Rubens agreeably to his promiſe ſent ſixty-two camels for thirty-one loads, and we had nineteen camels for carrying our tents, proviſions and water, beſides two al-

ternately to carry a mohafa. We began our firſt day's journey upon camels, to ſee how we liked their motion. The walk we found diſagreeable, and at firſt a great ſtrain on the loins and back, but the amble is like the ſame pace of a large horſe and not unpleaſant. Cadeo being ill was put into the mohafa.

NOVEMBER 13th. At day break we ſtruck the tents and began to load the camels, but did not get away from the ground till eight o'clock, when all the caravan began to move: for the firſt three hours and a half the road was tolerably good; to the left we ſaw the S. E. end of the ſame ſalt lake we had ſeen before. About ſeventeen miles from Haglier and two miles to the right of the road perceiving ſome ruins we went to look at them, and found the ſhell or outer wall of a church built of ſtrong black granite without cement; there were four large arches that appeared to have been windows, three to the ſouthward and one to the eaſtward. Near to this building were alſo the remains of a very large town; the Arabs ſaid it had been in ruins time immemorial, and was called Aſhuck Maſhook. At a quarter before three we ſtopped upon a riſing ground, the mountain of Diaram in ſight

bearing

bearing about W. by N. diſtant about three miles. On the top of it appeared to be a ruined building, where there is ſaid to be a well of exceeding good water, and much frequented by thieves. We ſaw five Antelopes but could not approach near enough to get a ſhot at them.

November 14th. It rained the greateſt part of the day, little wind from S. W. at five in the morning we marched and paſſed over an uneven country, the ſoil of which is a red gravelly ſand full of holes mady by rats and ſnakes; we ſaw alſo ſeveral ſnakes ſkins. At two o'clock it began to grow cloudy and thunder to the S. W. about four o'clock in the afternoon the ſtorm broke upon us with a hard ſhower of rain, which continued ſome time, and obliged us to pitch our tents in a place where there was the appearance of a caravan of camels having been lately encamped. The uſual mode of encamping is as follows; when the caravan comes to the ground, the camels which carry the tent the proviſions and the baggage are drawn up in the centre, and thoſe with the bales of merchandize form an outer circle round them, by which means their loading makes a kind of rampart; and the camels themſelves having one of their fore legs tied up

form

ſorm another outer circle round the goods: but when there is paſture for the camels as there was this day for the firſt time ſince we left Haglier, after being unloaded they are turned looſe to browze, and before it is dark one of the drivers goes out and makes a noiſe ſomewhat like that made by our herdſmen in calling the cows; on hearing which all the camels come up to him on a full trot, and return to the camp where they are tied together to prevent their ſtraying in the night. Our courſe this day was nearly E. S. E.

November 15th. It rained all night, nevertheleſs at ſix in the morning we marched, but were obliged to halt again at three in the afternoon; we paſſed this day over a clay and ſandy ſoil that was very ſlippery, on which grew furze and long graſs. We killed two ſnakes about ſeven feet long and ſaw a large flight of wild ducks, which came from the S. W. and flew towards the N. W. our camp was ſituated in a bottom ſurrounded with ſmall hills; on the ſummit of one to the N. E. is a white building which our Arabs told us was erected by a man to the memory of his horſe which died near that ſpot, after having ſaved him from falling into the hands of ſome Bedouins by whom he was purſued.

purſued. About four o'clock we had an alarm and our people took to their arms, the perſons ſuſpected proved to be our own ſcouts.

NOVEMBER 16th. The rain continued the greateſt part of laſt night, and the wind blew pretty freſh from the S. W. At ſix in the morning the wind changing to due weſt it cleared up, and at ſeven we marched. We paſſed over an hilly uneven country, the ſoil nearly the ſame as yeſterday. About nine in the morning we ſaw ſix oſtriches at the diſtance from us of about half a mile. At one o'clock found the remains of a dead body, the head entire with ſome of the hair upon it, one of the arms and both the legs gone, and no fleſh on the carcaſe; about two hundred yards further lay a blue Arab jacket, our people ſuppoſed it to be the body of a courier ſent from Bagdad with diſpatches for Aleppo, who had been ſome time miſſing. A little after two in the afternoon we halted and encamped upon a plain ſurrounded by ſmall hills. Our Sheick went to the top of the higheſt to look out for Arabs, but ſaw none; he alſo in the evening ſent two ſcouts to the next watering place, which is about fourteen miles diſtant, where we are to halt to-morrow to take in a freſh ſupply of water.

November 17. We began our march at a quarter past seven in the morning, very fine weather, sent out scouts, and quitted the direct road to prevent falling in with an enemy. We proceeded over a very uneven conntry, the soil the same as yesterday. About twelve o'clock we saw the remains of a very large encampment which alarmed our Sheick, and made him collect the caravan to march in close order; about two oclock three horsemen appeared on the top of a hill to the right of us. We drew up the men who began their war dance, throwing their muskets over their heads and shouting with great vociferation. As we advanced the horsemen retreated, we showed our colours and they displayed theirs, on which our Sheick said they were not irreconcileable enemies. We drew off to the right, and encamped in a strong post, flanked by two marshes, and covered in the rear by a small hill, on which we stationed ten men: from this hill we could plainly perceive at the distance of about three miles, an immense body of Arabs, which as they had their families and flocks with them, looked like the encampment of the Patriarchs: they first sent out a detachment of about four hundred men towards us, but finding we were drawn up to receive them, five men only advanc-

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ed from their main body, ſeemingly with an intention to treat; on ſeeing which we alſo ſent five of our people to meet them. A ſhort conference enſued, and then both parties came to our camp and were received with great ceremony by our Sheick; they proved to be Bedouins under the command of Sheick Fadil, amounting altogether including men, women and children to near twenty thouſand. After much negociation our Sheick agreed to pay a tribute of one chequin for every camel carrying merchandize; but he refuſed to pay any thing for thoſe that carried our tents, baggage, and proviſions: theſe terms ſettled, the Bedouins promiſed to ſend a refeek with us, until we were paſt all danger of being moleſted by any of their detached parties. To the ſouthward of us, and about four miles diſtant we could plainly perceive the ruined city of Tiaba, but the Sheick adviſed us not to viſit it, leaſt we ſhould be attacked by ſome ſtragglers from the Bedouin camp. Palmira, or as the Arabs call it Tadmor, is ſaid to be forty-five miles S. of this place, over the hills.

NOVEMBER 18th. Sheick Suliman not having ſettled with the Bagdad caravan, what portion of the Bedouins demand they ſhould pay,

we remained at the ſame encampment. The Bedouins brought ſome camels to ſell, for the beſt of which they aſked twelve chequins: our people purchaſed one and killed it to eat; the fleſh of the camel being eſteemed a dainty, the diviſion of it occaſioned many diſputes among them, nor was it without ſome difficulty they were prevented by their Sheicks from fighting for it. One of the Bedouins who was ſick, being informed we were Europeans, came to aſk our advice as phyſicians; we told him we had no medicines with us, but would write down his caſe, and if he would carry our preſcription to Aleppo, the gentleman there would give him what was proper to cure him. We accordingly wrote the letter, and the brother of the patient ſet out with it next morning expreſs, promiſing to deliver it in two days and a half. Theſe Bedouins are almoſt the only tribe of Arabs, who live according to the primitive ſimplicity of their anceſtors; they never ſleep in houſes, nor even enter a town or city, unleſs to purchaſe what they want, or to ſell what they have to diſpoſe of. They acknowledge no ſuperior but their own Sheicks, nor do they like moſt other tribes pay a tribute to any of the Baſhaws belonging to the Ottoman government. In the ſummer

ſeaſon

ſeaſon when the wells and ponds in the deſert are almoſt dry, for the convenience of feeding and watering their camels and ſheep, they always keep near the banks of ſome great river: but after the rains they move about from one place to another, ſeldom remaining on one ſpot longer than a week. They compel every perſon they meet with to pay them a tribute; but are ſeldom guilty of cruelty, unleſs they are reſiſted, and any of their companions are killed; in which caſe they are very vindictive. The year before they fell in with us, they attacked and plundered a caravan going from Damaſcus to Bagdad; but their victory coſt them dear, which perhaps made them more readily liſten to overtures of peace from us.

November 19th. We marched at half after ſeven in the morning, and about a mile to the eaſtward of our camp paſſed by a ſpring of warm water, which in colour, taſte, and alſo in heat, greatly reſembles that of the Briſtol Wells. It is called by the Arabs Ain ul Koum: our Sheick told us there was once an aqueduct to convey this water from the fountain head, to an ancient ruined city about fourteen miles from thence,

called Keſſer al Ackwien, or Guſſur ul Bain*, but we ſaw no traces of it; ſoon after paſſing the well we had a good view of Tiaba, which we ſaw to the ſouthward at the diſtance of three miles. The ground we paſſed over this day was a tolerable good mould, and capable of producing many kinds of grain. About the diſtance mentioned by our Sheick, and rather more than a mile to the right of the road we ſaw Keſſer ul Ackwien, which accompanied by our Sheick we went to examine. The building is divided into two ſquares, and a paſſage between them of about fifty paces wide, each face of the largeſt ſquare is about two hundred and fifty yards long, and thirty feet high; there are round towers at the diſtance of forty yards from each other, the gate is in the centre of the weſt front, and a ſmall round tower on both ſides of the gate. In the interior part of the largeſt ſquare there is the ruin of a building, and near to it a ſubterraneous paſſage that leads to a kind of a cave or cel-

* None of theſe Arabs are able to write, the pronunciation of the names of places on the deſert therefore being arbitrary and extremely different, it is almoſt impoſſible to aſcertain their proper denomination. Many of the ruins are by the Arabs ſaid to have been built by a Keſſer, which certainly implies ſome of the Cæſars, but the other name is generally too much diſguiſed to be known.

lar.

lar. In the S. E. angle of the ſquare was a portico of the Corinthian order entire, and the ſhafts of ſome other columns lying on the ground, the baſes and capitals of which we could not find. The walls are built of a kind of Bath ſtone, and the ſmaller ſquare of the ſame materials; the inſide of the ſmall ſquare is a continuation of arches in a ruinous ſtate; round the top of the walls of both the ſquares is a kind of a parapet made of ſmall bricks and mortar, but we could perceive no cement between the ſtones of the lower wall. We were prevented taking any particular plan or view of this place by the appearance of ſome ſtrange Arabs. Theſe ruins and many others in ſight of this place, are probably remains of towns and villages, formerly dependant on Palmira. About three o'clock we halted upon a riſing ground, the Bedouins brought ſome more camels to ſell, but we did not purchaſe any of them. Our courſe this day was about S. E.

November 20th. It ſeems the Sheick expected to be attacked by the Arabs we ſaw yeſterday near Keſſer ul Ackwien, and for that reaſon kept the centries very alert all night. At ſeven this morning we marched over rather a plain

plain country, the ſoil a light white loom, with rank dried graſs growing on it in clumps; this day we ſaw a great number of hares and rabbits, of which we killed ſeveral; at three o'clock we halted, when the caravan came firſt to the ground there were a number of antelopes in ſight, which immediately fled on our appearance, and we ſaw no more of them*. In the evening Sheick Suliman deſired a hundred and five dollars to ſettle his own accounts with Sheick Fadil. Weather fair, the wind at S. S. W. courſe S. E. ſaw two flocks of ſheep and goats, bought one ſheep for ſeven dollars, which we killed immediately, and it proved to be very fat and good; buried without any funeral ceremony an Arab of our party who died yeſterday.

November 21ſt. We marched at ſeven this morning over a plain country of light clay, with a kind of fern and furze growing upon it, amongſt which we ſhot ſome hares and rabbits. The Arabs dreſſed a hare for us in the following manner. They dug a hole about two feet deep in the

* A person travelling for curioſity or pleaſure ſhould carry with them hawks or greyhounds, and they might catch plenty of game; which would be an amuſement, and at the ſame time very convenient.

ground,

ground, large enough to contain the hare at full length, which they filled with furze, and then ſet it on fire; after the firſt parcel of furze was conſumed, they put in a ſecond; and then a third, until the hole was almoſt as hot as an oven: then they put in the laſt parcel of furze, and without drawing or ſkinning the hare, they placed it on the fire until the flame was extinguiſhed: at laſt they covered up the hare with the mould, which had been heaped upon the edge of the hole, ſo as to be heated by the fire, and thus they left it until it was ſufficiently baked. The Arabs eat ſkin and fleſh together; but we contented ourſelves with the fleſh only, which we thought a very ſavory diſh. We arrived at our ground, where we encamped about four in the afternoon, our courſe was S. E. eaſterly.

November 22d. Marched at ſeven this morning, and in the courſe of the day paſſed two hills, but on the whole the country was tolerably plain, we croſſed one place that had the appearance of being the bed of a river, but our people differed about its name; the ſoil in general was a kind of light clay with ſtones. We ſhot ſome hares amongſt the furze. At half

after

after three came to our ground at a place called Ain ul Haroof or Juab Kunnum; we found a well in a bottom and rather deep, the water of which was muddy; weather fair and exceedingly hot, at noon the wind N. W. courſe S. E.

November 23d. Marched at ſeven this morning over an uneven country, the ſoil, ſhrubs, &c. the ſame as yeſterday; about twelve o'clock we paſſed the bed of a river about one hundred and twenty yards wide from the appearance of the weeds and ſhrubs that grew in it, the water ran from the N. E. to the S. W. it is called Suab, and is ſaid to be impaſſable after heavy rains. We killed ſome hares, but ſaw not ſo many as for ſome preceding days; we alſo ſaw ſome Antelopes and Oſtriches but at a great diſtance. In the morning cloudy to the eaſtward, when the ſun roſe the ſky looked wild; in the middle of the day the weather was exceedingly hot and in the evening cool, wind about S. E. our courſe S. E. halted at three in the afternoon: the Arabs when the wind blows from this quarter always cover their mouths with a piece of their turbans.

November 24th. Marched at ſeven this morning over a very uneven ſtoney country. At twelve halted a few minutes at the bed of a river called

called Rutgur. About one o'clock came in ſight of ſome hills called Manget, they bore about S. E. the country we travelled over till we halted was rather plain and the ſoil a light mould. Stopped at half after four, the wind N. N. E. the weather fair and the middle of the day very hot, ſaw a few hares, ſent out three ſcouts to reconnoitre the next watering place, at the diſtance of three days journey, courſe S. E.

NOVEMBER 25th. Marched at ſeven this morning, and at noon the Bagdad caravan ſeparated from us to proceed to the place of its deſtination, they expected to come in ſight of the Euphrates the next day in the evening; we were very happy to part with them, for they doubtleſs detained us very much, but we could not get rid of them without quarrelling with the Sheick, who certainly made them pay convoy money. The ſoil of the country much the ſame as yeſterday, caught a few hares; about twelve o'clock paſſed the bed of a river, halted a quarter before five in the afternoon. Whilſt we kept with the Bagdad caravan, I believe we travelled only at the rate of two miles an hour, but afterwards I reckon at the rate of two miles and a half an hour. Our courſe this day was S. E. by E.

November 26th. Laſt night was a froſt, and the air exceedingly cold, in the morning the wind W. N. W. marched at ſeven, about eight o'clock ſaw on a hill to the right of us the appearance of a ruin, but we were adviſed not to go to examine it. The country we paſſed over very much the ſame as yeſterday, caught ſome hares, halted at four o'clock on the bank of a bed of a rivulet that overflows in the rainy ſeaſon.

November 27th. Marched at ſeven this morning, the ſoil of the country we paſſed over was compoſed of hard ſand and flints, we ſaw ſome hills to the left of us that had the appearance of ſtone, and about three in the afternoon paſſed by a deep pit, that looked as if it had been a ſtone quarry. At five in the evening halted at Haglet ul Havran, where we found a great number of wells near the ſurface. When the camels came within half a mile of the place they began of their own accord to run as faſt as they could, which the Arabs ſaid was owing to their ſmelling the water, but I am rather inclined to believe ſome of the camels knew the place: this was the fifth day they had not drank. The appearance of a large encampment having lately

lately left this place, alarming the Sheick he talked of going the next morning towards Meſhed Aly, which he ſays is ſeven or eight days journey from hence. In the morning the weather very cloudy, and the wind at E. but it cleared up towards the evening, and at night it was a froſt, courſe E. S. E.

November 28th. Remained near the wells till nine o'clock in the morning that the camels might drink a ſufficient quantity of water, to laſt them three or four days; at half after nine began our march, we paſſed over a barren country, and halted at five o'clock, about a quarter after ten o'clock in the morning, we paſſed the bed of a deep rivulet, when we got over on the other ſide, we were met by one of our people who had been at Cubeſſa to learn news: he brought word that Baſſora was certainly evacuated by the Perſians, and in the poſſeſſion of the Arabs; alſo that Mahomed Khulleel an Arab, but a profeſſed deiſt who had aſſembled a large body of troops to attack and deſtroy Mecca, had been defeated by the troops and allies of the Sherreef. The other ſcout did not return with the camels, this man came on foot to us, and ſaid he did not know where his comrade was gone: in conſe-

quence of the Baſſora news, the Sheick promiſed us we ſhould go to Baſſora inſtead of Graine. About twelve o'clock the wind began to blow very ſtrong from the N. W. which produced cloudy weather and ſome rain; halted about half paſt three o'clock in the evening, courſe E. S. E.

November 29th. The wind continued to blow violently and exceedingly cold; we marched at half after ſeven, paſſed over a barren country, ſaw to the right of us, at a conſiderable diſtance a flock of ſheep: when we firſt perceived them they were near the ſummit of a hill, which made them look large, and gave them the appearance of a party of horſe. About three o'clock we came to a country covered with furze, the ſame as we had ſeen before; caught a few hares, ſtopt at half after four o'clock in the evening: our Sheick who had intelligence of ſome Arabs being on the road, ſent two men to a village to gain further information about them; the man who returned on foot went again on a camel to ſearch for his comrade, the wind continued blowing hard all this day from the N. W. courſe S. E.

November 30th. Marched at half paſt ſeven this morning, the wind blowing at N. W. exceedingly

ceedingly cold, we paſſed over an uneven country with ſome few hills of white ſtone: the ſoil in general a ſand, and ſome few hills of white clay, which muſt be very ſlippery in wet weather, and conſequently dangerous to travel over upon a camel; to the N. E. of us we ſaw a hill that had the appearance of a ruin. One of the ſcouts returned and brought advice that there were ſome Arabs near the watering place where we intended to halt the next day, we therefore determined to go another way towards the village of Rahaly; ſaw three eagles ſoaring in the air, courſe S. E. by E.

DECEMBER 1ſt. In the middle of laſt night a man came and confirmed the report of our ſcouts, he ſaid he was ſent by one of our people, but we detained him leaſt he ſhould be employed by an enemy: about two o'clock we turned off due S. to avoid the above-mentioned Arabs. In the firſt part of the day we marched over a conſiderable ſpace of ground that is overflowed in the rains; we afterwards met with many different kinds of ſoil, but principally gravel. About four in the afternoon we ſaw ſome hills of white ſand to the eaſtward of us, near which the Sheick ſays, there is exceeding good water,

but

but we kept to the ſouthward to avoid meeting the Arabs. At noon ſaw a large herd of goats; this evening two men came into our camp dreſſed in the ſkins of antelopes, whoſe principal buſineſs is to kill thoſe animals, and to carry their ſkins to the adjacent towns to ſell. Halted at ſix in the evening, about ten miles from Rahaly, which we ſhould have reached this night if we had not been obliged to go ſo much to the ſouthward; the wind weſtward, the morning and the evening cool, the middle of the day exceedingly hot, the weather fair.

December 2d. Marched at ſeven this morning, after travelling about three hours and a half over looſe ſand, came in ſight of two large clumps of trees; we drew up the men in good order to march to the town of Rahaly, which is ſituated in the middle of a large plain, and ſurrounded by a vaſt number of date trees: about three quarters of a mile to the N. W. of the place, are two large ponds of clear water, which are ſupplied by ſprings. We firſt halted near theſe ponds, but the Sheick adviſed us to move nearer the town. It is ſaid to contain five or ſix thouſand inhabitants who carry on a conſiderable trade with the city of Bagdad, particu-

larly

larly in dates. The commandant or Arab governor, upon our arrival ſent us a preſent of preſerved dates and bread. We ſaw ſeveral large flocks of ſheep and goats, and bought a ſheep for four dollars; they aſked half a dollar apiece for ſmall fowls, which it ſeems are very ſcarce: the trees in the neighbourhood of the town ſeem to cover a ſpace of near ſix miles, but there is no paſture for the cattle, excepting ſome fern that grows between the trees; the ſoil is a light ſand, which perhaps is the reaſon the people in general have bad eyes, for when the wind blows violently from the S. E. it raiſes the ſand, and is ſaid to affect their health as well as their eyes; the ſumyel or poiſonous wind that blows in July and Auguſt comes from that quarter. Early in the morning about a dozen of thoſe people who live by catching of antelopes came into our camp; in language as well as in features, they appear to be a very diſtinct people from any Arabs I ever ſaw, by whom they are treated in the ſame manner as we treat our gypſies.

December 3d. The Sheick being told that a large body of hoſtile Arabs were on the road, ſent ſome people to treat with them, and deſired us to remain at Rahaly, until his meſſengers returned.

returned. This morning about eleven o'clock, ſome of thoſe Arabs came into our camp, and two of them ſtayed with us as refeeks. One of our ſervants ſhot two birds ſomewhat like a partridge, but rather larger, the breaſt of the male bird is covered with black ſpots, and the neck entirely black; the plumage of the hen bird is exactly like that of a hen partridge; the inhabitants of the town we found to be great thieves, they attempted to take every thing they could carry away unobſerved. The Sheick diſpatched a man to Meſhed Aly, to ſee if there were any other hoſtile Arabs in the neighbourhood of that city, and alſo to learn if the Perſians had abandoned Baſſora; by their anſwers we were to regulate our march; the weather fair, the morning cold, the wind all the day at N. W. in the evening the weather was remarkably fine, and the air temperate. We gave the governor's brother a preſent of four piaſtres, and a Beniſh or long gown: this place is remarkable for fine greyhounds, we ſaw ſeveral in cloathing like our race horſes.

December 4th. Marched at ſeven this morning, the firſt two hours we paſſed over a light ſand, on which grew a number of thorny

buſhes

bushes and some furze: about nine in the morning we saw a clump of trees to the left, where our people told us there was a small town called Ajeb, and to the right of us was a cupola built of stone, said to be the tomb of Sheick Huzzar; soon afterwards we passed over a place that had the appearance of a lake dried up, on the ground of which we found a great quantity of white salt of a bitumenous taste, it seemed to extend a great way to the N. E. and S. W. We were about an hour and a half in passing over it to the S. E. we then came on a sand and clay intermixed with gravel; about three o'clock we saw another clump of trees to the left of us: about five in the evening halted in a large plain of sand and gravel, and about four miles to the N. W. of a large ruined building, but it being late when we arrived at our ground, we postponed visiting it until the next morning. The Sheick said it was formerly built by the Greeks, and is called by the Arabs, Khuttar. Weather fair and wind N. W.

December 5th. Marched twenty minutes before seven this morning. Accompanied by the Sheick and one of the refeeks, we went to examine the ruin mentioned in last night's journal

called Khuttar, it is ſituated on the bank of a bed of a river, which has been, and perhaps ſtill is very deep when the freſhes come down. The building is a large ſquare, ſurrounded by a wall upwards of thirty-five feet high, and each face of it, ſomewhat more than two hundred yards in length, built of rough ſtone and mortar; within the large ſquare there is a ſmaller one of about one hundred yards each face, and parallel with the outer wall: the interior part of the leſſer ſquare was divided into a number of chambers and paſſages, which being in a very ruinous ſtate, we could not form any conjecture what they had been; we could ſee no place where there had been wells or reſervoirs of water, but the Sheick told us that water is always found near the ſurface. We ſaw nothing like Grecian architecture, but our people ſay it was certainly built by the Greeks: when we were leaving this place we were alarmed by the appearance of ſome ſtrange Arabs from the N. E. they appeared as ſoon as we got clear of the building, but ſome of our people with the caravan who had obſerved their motions coming to join us, the ſtrange Arabs perceiving them, diſappeared; at eleven o'clock we paſſed by two ſmall pools of water, which were clear but extremely brack-

iſh:

iſh: at half after four we halted, the country we paſſed over was ſandy, and in ſome places mixed with clay; about half after three we ſaw a number of hillocks of ſand both to the right and to the left of us, Khuttar remained in ſight, until half an hour before we encamped. Six men on camels and ſeven on foot came and encamped near us; it appeared they were the ſame people that we ſaw in the morning, and were well known to be thieves. In the morning the wind at eaſt and very cold, the weather fair; diſpatched another meſſenger this evening to Meſhed Aly for intelligence.

December 6th. Marched at a quarter before ſeven this morning, and left the people behind that encamped near us laſt night; they mentioned to Sheick Suliman that a French gentleman going to Baſſora, had been attacked and plundered; and although much wounded was likely to live; they ſaid the Arabs carried him to Graine, and likewiſe that the gentleman behaved very gallantly, and killed two or three of their people himſelf. The ſoil of the country over which we paſſed till twelve o'clock was a light ſand with ſome buſhes, and a few ſmall hills to the right and left of us: a quarter be-

fore twelve we arrived at a place called Hidia, where there was a pool of water, ſurrounded with high graſs; we filled a few ſkins with the water, which was clear, but very brackiſh; afterwards paſſed over a country, the ſoil of which was mud impregnated with ſalt, there were banks of ſand to the right and left of us. At the diſtance of about twelve miles E. by N. we ſaw the town of Meſhed, or rather Meſgid Aly, that is the moſque or burying place of Aly, who it is well-known was the ſon-in-law of Mahomed, and the favorite prophet of the Perſians. At a quarter before five we encamped near a place called Birket Rahama, wind E. S. E. weather fair. One of our ſervants obſerving a young camel without an owner, we ſent out a man who brought it into our camp.

December 7th. Marched rather before ſeven, the ſoil over which we paſſed was ſand with thick buſhes, ſaw at the diſtance of about ten miles to the N. E. the town of Meſgid Aly; we could plainly perceive ſeveral minarets, and a large gilt cupola; our Arabs ſay the latter belongs to the Meſgid or great moſque of that city; it appeared to us with great advantage, for the ſun ſhone on it, and made it appear extremely brilliant:

liant: as well as we could judge of the ſize of the cupola at ſo great a diſtance, it cannot be leſs than the dome of St. Paul's. About twelve o'clock we came to a hill, on which were erected two ſmall forts, the place is called Alathe. At the diſtance of three quarters of a mile from the Weſtward fort is a ſpring of water, which is conveyed to the fort by a deep ditch, and is there raiſed by means of a wheel to water a ſmall garden lately made about the fort, and planted with a great number of radiſhes and onions: the largeſt fort is a ſquare about ninety yards each face, at each angle is a round tower built of mud, the inſide is a ſtone building of two ſtories high, built in the Mahomedan ſtile: this place was founded by our Sheick, who propoſes living here when age and infirmities compel him to retire. He ſeems to expect to lay the foundation of a very large town here, which, as there is plenty of water and a good ſoil of a light mould, for the purpoſes of agriculture and gardening; and above all its being ſituated in the high road from Meſgid Aly to Baſſora, and other places near the deſert, is a very reaſonable expectation. A caravan that lately paſſed, which came from Graine, and was going to Bagdad told the people in the fort, that the Montifeek Arabs have had a great

battle

battle with the Perſians near Baſſora, in which they cut off the whole Perſian army, and thereby repoſſeſſed themſelves of Baſſora, the wind N. E. the weather fair, our courſe about S. E. by S. bought a ſheep, and paid three dollars and a half for it.

December 8th. Marched at a quarter before ſeven this morning over a barren ſtoney country, killed a few hares, ſaw at the diſtance of about ten miles N. E. of us the town of Gurgam an ancient city rebuilding. About two in the afternoon paſſed over a hill of red gravel, and at half after four halted in a valley where there was but very little paſture for the camels. About eight in the evening our centinels being poſted as uſual, one of thoſe to the weſtward diſcovered five horſemen who fled the inſtant he fired at them. We doubled our guards and kept under arms for a few hours in expectation of their attacking us with a reinforcement. The meſſenger from Meſhed Aly not returned, nor the people that were miſſing from the firſt place; the wind at E. morning cold, middle of the day exceedingly hot, the wind in the afternoon at N. E.

December 9th. Marched at ſeven this morning, dark and cloudy to the N. W. and the

wind

wind from that quarter: the firſt three hours, a very barren ſoil, hard ſand and large dark brown ſoft ſtones, afterwards came to a hard ſand and a great many ſhrubs; half after four halted, killed ſome hares, the weather cloudy and hazy, to the N. W. we ſaw a fire which they told us was on the banks of the Euphrates.—Major Thompſon about noon miſſed his watch, but having looked at it about ten o'clock, he ſent one of the Arabs back to ſearch for it, telling him within what diſtance it muſt have fallen; the fellow very honeſtly brought it, nor was it broken.

December 10th. Marched at ſeven this morning, paſſed over a very barren country, ſaw to the left of us three large volumes of ſmoke from the banks of the Euphrates, which the Sheick ſaid was fifteen miles diſtance: at a quarter paſt twelve halted for half an hour near ſome wells of tolerable good water, until two o'clock the ſoil continued barren, then we got amongſt ſome hills of light ſand and broken ſtones. At four o'clock a large body of Arabs appeared to the right, who ſeemed inclined to attack us, our people immediately halted and drew up towards the enemy. Some few ſhot were fired, but a man

man advanced waving a cloth in his hand, and began a treaty with our Sheick who went to meet him, which put an end to hoftilities: our people were of different opinions concerning them, fome infifted on their being thieves who intended to attack us in the night; the Sheick himfelf though he called them friends advifed us not to pitch our tents, and alfo to be on our guard all night. We were encamped half a mile diftant from the new comers, our own camels and baggage were drawn up in as fmall a circle as poffible; our fufpected enemies were divided into two camps, one to the weftward and the other to the fouthward, wind wefterly and weather fair.

December 11th. The fuppofed thieves remained quiet all night in their camps with fires lighted; at half after fix we began loading our camels, but did not move till half after feven: we judged it prudent to divide our men into two parties, one of them to march in front of the camels, and the other to bring up the rear. The firft two hours the foil was fand with furze, and then a barren ftoney country; afterwards a fand with furze and in fome places large fpots that looked like a pond dried up in fummer. Rather before one in the afternoon we came to fome

wells

wells and alſo a large pond of brackiſh water; from thence proceeded over the ſame ſort of country and ſoil as before till near five; and then encamped for the night: cloudy to the N. E. and S. W. a little rain between two and three in the morning; ſix of the party we ſaw laſt night joined us on the march, and were received with great cordiality by our people.

December 12th. Marched rather before ſeven this morning and paſſed over a light ſand mixt with ſalt, a great quantity of furze and ſome buſhes; the latter part of the day the ſand lay in great heaps or ledges: halted at four o'clock in a bottom; from an aſcent near the camp we ſaw a ruin called Couria, about five miles to the ſouthward, with a glaſs we could perceive it was a ſquare building with round towers: the morning and evening were cool, but the middle of the day was very hot, the wind variable: the water we got yeſterday brackiſh and exceedingly bad. At ten o'clock at night we diſpatched a letter to Mr. Latouche at Baſſora, to inform him of our being on the way, and deſiring him to detain any veſſel that might be ready to go to Bombay; one

 of

of the Arabs that joined us yesterday was selected by the Sheick to carry the letter*.

December 13th. Marched at seven this morning over a very uneven country, the soil a light and deep sand. About four miles from our last night's encampment, we saw the track of a great number of camels and asses, which our people suspected to have been the encampment of a body of thieves. We turned off immediately due E. and passed over a deep sand, and a country covered with sand and bushes; in some places the ground was covered with dried mud and sand, which by the heat of the sun was hardened so as to appear like broken tiles; there was no appearance of a road. About two o'clock we observed two people at some distance from us, and sent three of our men after them, who took one of their camels and brought it to us, but the people escaped. At four o'clock halted at a place where there were a number of springs, but not much water

* Did not the Arabs much to their honour consider their faith once pledged as inviolable, they would not in this manner put themselves in the power of strangers, who but an instant before were in arms against them. The man delivered the letter exactly at the time prescribed and brought an answer, for which he was paid ten dollars.

in the wells; this evening for the firſt time we caught a deſert rat, of which we had ſeen a great number; it is an animal that reſembles very much a ſmall rabbit both in ſhape and colour, the body is about the ſize of a ſmall mole, the tail three times the length of the body, the point of which is covered with a ſmall buſh of hair; the eyes are large, full and black, the hind legs remarkably long. Weather fair, wind S. E. and very hot; paid the Sheick one hundred and ten dollars, the laſt payment of the five hundred kept for diſburſements on the road.

December 14th. Rained at two o'clock in the morning: marched at ſeven this morning over a plain country, a cold breeze from the S. E. and cloudy, halted at four o'clock. Courſe S. E.

December 15th. Marched at ſeven this morning over a country of light ſand and moſtly barren; at nine in the morning ſaw a man on a camel, who told us he was a meſſenger going to the Sheick of the Montiffeeks from Sheick Sidon; he alſo informed us that Baſſora was ſtill in the hand of the Perſians. In the evening we perceived ſome men on camels to the northward, but they did not come near us; we ſuppoſed them to

be of the ſame tribe as the man that paſſed in the morning; halted at five o'clock. Weather cloudy and ſome few drops of rain, wind W. N. W. and very cold, courſe S. E. by E.

December 16th. Lightning to the N. E. marched at half after ſeven this morning, in a very dirty thick fog that came on about one o'clock in the morning from the N. E. ſeparated from the caravan belonging to Khwaja Rubens, which went to Graine, and we proceeded towards Baſſora with only ſixteen men and nineteen camels. Our Sheick gave all the water to the other party, thinking we ſhould arrive in the evening at the village of Coebda; but he was miſtaken in the diſtance; for although we kept moving on till ten, we were obliged to paſs the night very uncomfortably for want of ſomething to drink: the very great concern expreſſed by the good old Sheick prevented our reproaching him for his imprudence; he offered to ride all night to ſearch for water, but of courſe we did not allow him to fatigue himſelf.

December 17th. A violent fog came on again laſt night, and continued ſo heavy as to ſoak through the tent. Early in the night before the fog came on, we ſaw three or four fires, apparently

rently at the diſtance of three or four miles to the E. N. E. the Sheick informed us they were on the banks of the Euphrates. Marched at day-break, and at half an hour after nine came to the village of Coebda, which had been ruined by the Perſians; here we got ſome good water, at leaſt it appeared ſo to us who had not taſted any for more than twenty-four hours. We alſo met at Coebda the perſon we had ſent with the letter to Baſſora, who brought an anſwer from Mr. Latouche. About one o'clock we arrived at Zebeer, another place which had alſo been deſtroyed by the Perſians. In the evening Mr. Latouche, by a ſecond meſſenger informed us, that in the morning he ſhould ſend us mules and an eſcort; for as hoſtilities ſtill continued between the Arabs and the Perſians, our eſcort could not accompany us any further: the weather cleared up a little about noon, but was not quite clear until the evening. We pitched our tents amongſt the ruins of Zebeer, and ſtationed an advanced picquet in front towards Baſſora to guard againſt being ſurpriſed by the Perſians; nor can this precaution be deemed unneceſſary, conſidering the violent animoſity that ſubſiſted between the two nations, of which the following relation will ſufficiently explain the cauſe.

WHEN

When the Perſians took Baſſora, they appointed Aly Mahomed governor of it, leaving with him a garriſon of ſeven thouſand five hundred men. Although he was ſuch a monſter, as is only to be found amidſt the ruins of a country; he had art enough to conceal his diſpoſition, until by an affected moderation, he had thrown the inhabitants of the adjacent towns and villages off their guard. In about two months however, he broke out, beginning his exceſſes in the city of Baſſora itſelf. The firſt victim of his luſt was the daughter of an Arabian phyſician, the fame of whoſe beauty having reached him, he cauſed her to be brought to his houſe, where he kept her for three days, and then turned her out of doors, expoſed to the inſults of the mob. The father had followed his daughter to the houſe of the raviſher when ſhe was torn from him, and had never quitted his door; ſo that he was the firſt perſon to receive her when ſhe was again diſmiſſed. He conducted her home, intending on the way, in compliance with the cuſtoms of his country to put her to death; but before he could execute his intentions, his affection for his only child prevailed over his regard to cuſtom; and he determined, not only to ſave her life, but alſo as much as poſſible by marriage, to wipe out the

the ſtain her reputation had received. He was rich and much reſpected in the city, which added to the beauty of the girl, enabled him to get a huſband for her; not entirely equal to her proper rank, and former pretenſions; but at the ſame time greatly above the vulgar. The celebration of ſuch a wedding could not fail to make a great noiſe, and of courſe was ſoon known to the tyrant: whilſt he continued ſober the news of it ſeemed neither to afford him pleaſure or pain; but in the firſt fit of intoxication, he ſent for the father, the huſband and the wife, and aſked them how they durſt preſume to diſpoſe of a perſon devoted to his pleaſure? without waiting to receive their anſwer, he made one of his guards cut off the heads of the father, and the huſband, and then compelled the woman to bring water to waſh their blood off the hands of the executioner; nor did he ſtop here, but the ſequel of his conduct was not only too ſhocking, but alſo too indecent to be related.

Notwithstanding ſuch unheard of barbarity, the major part of the inhabitants of Zebeer and Coebda were ſo infatuated as to continue to live within twelve miles of him; imprudently relying on the faith of one who had

thus

thus publicly violated all laws; both divine and human. A few, and but very few of the moſt prudent of them had left either of theſe places, when one night in a fit of drunkenneſs, and inſtigated by avarice, Aly Mahomed marched from Baſſora with a body of troops and burnt Zebeer; at the ſame time putting to death all thoſe who attempted to eſcape from the flames: from thence he marched to Coebda, where he acted in the ſame manner, and then returned to Baſſora; exulting as much in having treacherouſly maſſacred, in cold blood, a number of defenceleſs people, as if he had obtained a glorious victory over a powerful army.

Submissive as the ſubjects of deſpotic governments generally are, even under the heavieſt oppreſſions; the inhabitants of Baſſora would certainly have revolted againſt the governor, had not the city been almoſt depopulated, both by plague and famine before it fell into the hands of the Perſians. The few wretched inhabitants who ſurvived theſe dreadful calamities, could neither reſiſt their tyrant, nor eſcape from him; their number was too ſmall to hope for ſucceſs againſt his force, and to remove from the city was impoſſible: they were therefore almoſt re-

duced

duced to deſpair when the gallant tribe of Arabs called Montiffeeks determined to reſcue them from ſuch a dreadful ſituation.

Sheick Tamur, the chief of this tribe having collected an army of about fifteen thouſand men, advanced with a ſelect party of about two thouſand horſe within ſight of the walls of Baſſora; the remainder he left about fifteen miles in the rear, concealed in a wadi, or water courſe, near the river Euphrates which place the Arabs deſtined for the ſcene of action; for beſides the Euphrates to the Eaſt, and the water courſe to the North, there was a deep moraſs to the South. Aly Mahomed who did not want for perſonal courage, no ſooner perceived his enemies near Baſſora, than he marched out with five thouſand choſen troops to attack them; the Arabs retreated towards their ambuſcade, and were followed by the Perſians. When the Sheick perceived the Perſians had got between the water courſe and the moraſs, he ſallied out of the place of his concealment; and with a part of the troops having cloſed up the only opening to the Weſtward, he charged them ſword in hand, in which being alſo well ſeconded by the other detachment, which had decoyed them towards the ambuſcade, they together put every man of the Perſians to

death, not leaving one alive to carry back the news of their defeat. By an over-fight, very difficult to be accounted for, Sheick Tamur neglected to purfue his victory, and march directly to Baffora, of which doubtlefs he would have eafily made himfelf mafter; for Aly Mahomed had left only a fmall garrifon in it, who would neither have had ftrength or fpirit enough to have made any refiftance. This account we received from one of the former inhabitants of Zebeer, whom we found employed in fearching among the ruins for what might have efcaped the hands of the Perfians, when they plundered and deftroyed the place.

In the evening we fettled accounts with the Sheick, and fo far from finding him mercenary and felfifh as thefe people are generally reprefented; he behaved to us with a politenefs and liberality that would have done honour to the moft polifhed European. It will be remembered that by our written agreement at Aleppo, I was to give him five hundred dollars on the road, and eight hundred more on our arrival at Graine: the former fum therefore I kept ready to be paid to his order; but the latter I counted and fealed up in a bag to prevent any of them being loft or miflaid.

miſlaid. When this bag was brought, as I was going to open it, the Sheick ſtopped me; aſking if it had been counted and ſealed up in my preſence: and when I anſwered in the affirmative, with a careleſs unaffected air, beſpeaking no merit from the action, he threw it over his ſhoulder and ordered his ſervant to put it into his trunk. The reader will eaſily believe that this mark of his confidence gave me no ſmall ſatisfaction; it was the more ſtriking from our ſituation; for had I deceived him, he durſt not have followed me to Baſſora to demand redreſs. But leſt the mention of this trait of Arabian politeneſs ſhould be imputed to vanity; I ſhall at the concluſion of this work endeavour to account for the good underſtanding ſubſiſting between us, and alſo to explain the cauſes of the diſputes which too often happen between the Europeans and the Arabs.

December 18th. At eleven o'clock the mules arrived from Baſſora, eſcorted by ten ſepoys belonging to the factory; after taking leave of the Arabs, with mutual profeſſions of friendſhip; and a requeſt from our honeſt Sheick, that we would ſend for him to accompany us if ever we paſſed that way again, we left Zebeer.

As the sepoys were on foot, and moved slowly, we left them with the baggage and rode on towards Bassora. About half way we were met by Mr. Abraham and Mr. Gally, two of the company's servants, who very politely came to meet and conduct us to the English factory, at which we arrived rather before three in the afternoon: the appearance of Bassora was exceedingly gloomy, having as I have before observed been almost depopulated by a plague, a siege, and a famine. In the year 1772, there was supposed to be upwards of four hundred thousand inhabitants in the place, and on the day of our arrival, there were certainly not more than six thousand, including the Persians; the principal streets were like a burying ground, with scarcely a space of three feet between each grave.

December 19th. Mr. Latouche endeavoured to get a country boat to convey us to Muscat, but he could not procure one without sending to Bunder Reeg, or Bunder Aboushaher; called by us Bunder Bushire.

December 20th. The difficulty of procuring a boat was increased by an order sent from Shiras, to detain all boats for the use of the troops in their march to reinforce the garrison. This day we rode about the city, which in every part of it wore the

same

ſame gloomy appearance. The few Arabian inhabitants that remain ſhewed great reſpect to Mr. Latouche as he paſſed along the ſtreets, on account of his generoſity and humanity towards them and their countrymen; one hundred and fifty of whom, after the reduction of the place he redeemed from ſlavery, at his own private expence, and ſent to their relations in the country: an action that does honour to him, and even to the country that gave him birth.

DECEMBER 21ſt. News came that the Sheick of Julfa had taken a veſſel belonging to Bombay, and ſold the crew and paſſengers for ſlaves: this intelligence induced the gentlemen here to adviſe us to ſtay for a ſhip, as in country boats they thought we riſqued falling alſo into the Sheick's hands who might treat us in the ſame manner; but we were not at liberty to ſtay, having promiſed before we left England not to wait for a ſhip, if a boat could be procured.

DECEMBER 22d. The ſame difficulties ſtill continued about procuring a boat, but before the end of the month, we were promiſed what is called a doa, which is a boat of twenty or thirty tons burthen, ſewed with coir rope. The boats in which the inhabitants croſs the Euphrates, to and from

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the city are nothing more than large round wicker baſkets lined with leather; in which they carry not only men, but alſo horſes, and ſometimes camels.

DECEMBER 23d. Enquiring into the ſuppoſed cauſe of the plague that had almoſt depopulated this unfortunate city, I found it was in general imputed to an extraordinary inundation of the river, which left a great quantity of fiſh on the deſert, and thoſe fiſh becoming putrid, infecting the air. In riding about the environs of the city we ſaw an immenſe quantity of fiſh-bones ſtill lying on the ground. The plague generally rages with moſt violence in Turky and Egypt; in March and April, at which time the weather is extremely hot. As heat ſeems to increaſe the virulence of this diſorder; as the weather is hotter in Hindoſtan than it is in Turky; as the inhabitants alſo profeſs the ſame religion, obſerve the ſame cuſtoms, eat the ſame food, live in cities built in the ſame manner, and alſo in houſes formed of the ſame materials, it is ſurprizing that the inhabitants of India have never been afflicted with this dreadful diſorder; nor indeed can I find that it has ever been known within the Tropics, not even in Arabia Felix. So far from uſing uncommon precautions to guard againſt

the infection; when the plague had depopulated Baſſora, the ſhips coming from thence performed only five or ſix days quarantine on their arrival at any of the ports of India. I do not ſcruple to acknowledge that theſe hints are thrown out with a view to prevail on ſome humane and enlightened philoſopher to turn his thoughts to the inveſtigation of this matter. If the plague has never reached India, nor has even been known in the northern parts of Europe for many years paſt; might not ſome reaſon be aſſigned for its ſtill continuing to rage in the milder climates between the two extremes? Could this dreadful diſorder be driven from the face of the earth, which in my poor opinion is not impoſſible; a number of valuable lives would annually be ſaved, and the Levant would no longer be embarraſſed with the tedious forms of a long quarantine. Beſides an eaſy communication being once opened between thoſe countries and Europe; it is to be hoped the abſurd prejudices which have ſo long rendered the Chriſtians and Mahomedans hoſtile to each other, would die away; and that real philanthrophy, and univerſal urbanity, would ſucceed to ſavage perſecution, and groundleſs hatred.

December 24th. At five o'clock in the afternoon, Saduc Khan entered the city, at the head of about four thousand horse. His men were stout and well-made, but they were miserably dressed and accoutred. The Prince himself is a very handsome man; as indeed are most of the Persians of distinction, being the offspring of the handsomest women of Georgia and Circassia, as well as of their own country.

December 25th. Early this morning the master of a doa came to treat with us for his boat; at first he was very exorbitant in his demand; but at length became more reasonable, and promised to make it ready without delay. It being Christmas-day Mr. Latouche invited most of the Christian gentlemen to an entertainment at the factory: amongst which we found some of the Catholic missionaries very conversable agreeable men. Although no epicure, I cannot help remarking that the flesh of the wild hog which was one of the dishes we had for dinner, was by far the finest meat I ever tasted, which is probably owing to its feeding entirely upon dates.

December 26, 27, and 28th. Making preparations for our voyage, the Nakhuda or Captain promised to sail before new year's day.

December 29th. The Nakhuda called this morning, and ſaid he ſhould weigh anchor the next day with the ebb, which made about two o'clock in the afternoon.

December 30th. About two o'clock we left the factory accompanied with the gentlemen belonging to it, who during our ſtay at Baſſora conſtantly treated us with the greateſt politeneſs and hoſpitality: they remained a little time on board the doa and then took leave; as they went out of the boat we weighed anchor with a light breeze at N. W. and the tide in our favour: in the morning we came to an anchor again at Aboo ul Khuſeeb, where we remained to get wood, rice and dates, which are remarkable cheap and good at this place; Major Thomſon ſtayed behind at Baſſora.

December 31ſt. Remained at anchor until one o'clock, then weighed, the wind at N. W. at twelve o'clock the wind dying away and the tide againſt us, we came to again: The river is about a mile and a quarter wide all the way from Baſſora, and planted on both ſides with date trees, amongſt which a few towns and villages are interſperſed, which have a very pleaſing effect. We ſaw great numbers of wild ducks, and other water-fowl on the river, but could not get within gun-ſhot of

them. At four in the evening we weighed anchor, and paſſed the mouth of a river to the Eaſtward, which they ſaid was the boundary of the Baſſora country, and the beginning of the Shaub.

January 1ſt, 1779. Weighed at ſix this morning with a light breeze at N. N. W. at day break we loſt ſight of the land, ſteered till twelve o'clock, E. S. E. then afterwards E. by N. by an obſervation found ourſelves in the latitude of 29. 41. North, the weather rather cloudy; we paſſed ſeveral boats going towards the mouth of the river.

January 2d. The wind at N. W. and the weather fair; about ten o'clock we ſaw the land bearing South, and about one o'clock paſſed Cape Bang. On the mountains of Bang, there appeared a large fort, which our people ſaid was built by the Greeks, and before it was in ruins was deemed impregnable.

January 3d. In the night the wind blew exceedingly hard with a high ſea; the ſail having been torn by the violence of the wind we lay to, whilſt they cut it up to half its former ſize. At day break we made ſail again, but the ſail being torn a ſecond time, and alſo the rudder damaged, we came to an anchor off Bunder Reeg, about three

miles

miles from the ſhore. We wanted to get into that place, but we had overſhot the port; and were therefore obliged to ſtand on towards Bunder Abouſhaher, called by the Europeans Bunder Buſhir. As the wind blew freſh, and the ſea ran high, for want of a ſail and a rudder the boat was ſeveral times in danger of filling. In the afternoon the wind moderated, and at four in the evening finding ourſelves off Abouſhaher, we ſtood into the road, and went on ſhore to our factory, where Mr. Beaumont the reſident received us with the greateſt politeneſs.

JANUARY 4th. The doa came into the harbour; on examining her we found that ſhe not only wanted all kinds of ſtores, but alſo that her rudder was entirely deſtroyed; the wind blew ſtrong from the ſouthward.

JANUARY 5th. Finding the captain dilatory in purchaſing ſtores and neceſſaries for the voyage, we threatened to buy them for him, and to deduct the price of them out of the balance of freight, which he was to receive at Muſcat; to avoid which he himſelf bought an anchor ſtock, ſome ſpare rope, and two ſmall ſails, the wind at S. E. the weather cloudy with rain.

JANUARY 6th. The Nakhuda continued repairing his doa, and promiſed to be ready in the evening; wind and weather as yeſterday. I made ſome enquiries of a man who had been at Perſepolis, concerning the preſent ſtate of the ruins of that city; he called it Tuckta Jumſhid, and ſaid that there are only a few pillars and arches left, which are almoſt covered with buſhes. The Grecian name of Perſepolis was totally unknown to him; he reckoned it about one hundred and twenty miles from Abouſhaher. Finding this man equally inintelligent and communicative, I enquired of him alſo the preſent ſtate of the modern cities, and indeed of the empire in general: he informed me that Iſpahan, or as he called it Isfahan, was now almoſt entirely deſerted; the ſeat of Government being transferred to Shiras, where Kerreem Khan the preſent Sovereign, or as he calls himſelf, the protector, reſides. Kerreem Khan was one of the ableſt Generals of the famous Nadir Shah, better known in Europe, by the name of Kouli Khan; when his maſter was aſſaſſinated, Kerreem Khan marched towards Perſia, and having a large body of troops devoted to him, he aſſumed the reins of government, which he has held ever ſince. A Prince coming to a throne by hereditary ſucceſſion, or by election, may venture to reſide in an open

city

city like Iſpahan; but an uſurper muſt endeavour to ſecure himſelf with fortifications: for this reaſon Kerreem fixed upon Shiras, which is ſurrounded with a wall and a ditch, ſufficiently ſtrong to reſiſt the attacks of the Perſians; and in order to render himſelf ſtill more ſecure, he has obliged all his principal officers to bring their women into the city, from which none of them can ever go out again without his permiſſion. Could any other advantages compenſate for the want of liberty, the Perſians would have no reaſon to complain of the rigour of this order; for at Shiras they certainly enjoy every pleaſure that can be derived from a fine climate, and a fertile ſoil: they have fruits and vegetables of all kinds in abundance; and of the grapes they make a wine, the qualities of which have been celebrated by their well known Poet Hafiz, who has alſo ſpoke of the ladies with ſuch enthuſiaſm, as to ſay the truth, would only become an oriental writer, but ſtill there is no doubt of their being extremely beautiful: nor are the arts entirely unknown there, for at Shiras, they manufacture the fineſt ſword blades in the world, and adorn the handles of them with an enamel which would be admired even in London or Paris. Nothing in ſhort is wanting to make Perſia a terreſtrial paradiſe, excepting a regular government. The

Uſur-

Uſurper Kerreem is now dead, and has left a number of different competitors for the throne, but whatever ſucceſſor he may have will find, he has much to do to unite a kingdom which for ſo many years has been in a ſtate of anarchy and confuſion.

The great Kouli Khan ruined Perſia: the force he collected for the invaſion of Hindoſtan excited in the nation in general a ſpirit of enterprize and adventure; and the influx of wealth from the plunder of that country, entirely deſtroyed the Spirit of induſtry. In conſequence of which, the cultivation of the lands has been neglected, trade abandoned, and thoſe troops which were levied for conqueſt, having diſſipated what they acquired by plunder; have ever ſince been ravaging their own native country. The fate of Perſia may ſerve as a leſſon to all other nations, to prefer the more ſlow but ſalutary profits of trade. Superfluous wealth occaſions a kind of frenzy in a kingdom, during the paroxiſms of which it ſeems to have acquired uncommon ſtrength; but being exhauſted by unnatural exertions, it at length ſinks down a miſerable victim to its diſorder*.

JANU-

* It has been ſaid that Lord Clive propoſed to pay the national debt by an expedition to China: he might in a convivial moment

January 7th. The Nakhuda promiſed to have the doa ready to ſail in twenty-four hours, if the wind permitted. In the evening of this day there was a violent ſquall of wind from the S. E. accompanied with thunder, lightning and rain, which was the breaking up of the weather; for in the night the wind came round to the northward with a moderate breeze.

January 8th. The Nakhuda called in the morning to inform us he ſhould ſail in the evening about five o'clock, at which time we embarked and ſailed in company with two trankeys bound to Gombroon, the wind N. N. W. and the weather fair.

January 9th. Fair weather with a freſh breeze at N. W. ſaw the mountain and Cape Burdiſtan, and at twelve o'clock bore away N. N. E. towards a ſhoal called the Cock, that we paſſed at one o'clock in the afternoon, and upon which two Engliſh ſhips have been loſt; one of them in the

ment amongſt his friend have ſaid ſuch a ſcheme was practicable, and ſo it certainly is; but he was too ſound a politician, to wiſh to ſee one hundred and fifty millions of ſpecie the amount of the national debt in his time, introduced at once into England, knowing as he muſt that the ſudden introduction of one half of that ſum, has irrecoverably ruined Perſia one of the moſt highly gifted countries in the world.

year 1763. On the mountain of Burdistan they used formerly by signals of fire in the night and of smoak in the day to convey intelligence to the merchants at Shiras, of the appearance of the ships expected from India; that they might instantly come to Aboushaher to purchase their goods. Latitude observed 27. 53. North.

JANUARY 10th. About two o'clock in the morning it grew calm, and continued so all day: about six in the evening a light breeze sprung up from S. S. E. About four miles from the shore saw Cape Naband E. by N. latitude 27. 11. North.

JANUARY 11th. Calm till about seven in the morning, then a light breeze sprung up from the N. W. saw a small boat coming from the Southward, and two others from the Eastward, said to belong to a pirate called Abd ul Rheman, they did not come within gun shot of us, but hovered about us till dark and then appeared no more. Within about six miles of the shore on which are high rocks called Dar ul Asban that appeared white like chalk, latitude observed 27. 8. North.

JANUARY 12th. A fresh breeze from the N. W. and fair weather, passed by the Island of

Sheick

Sheick Shaub, Shudwan and Handeraby, latitude obſerved 26. 43. North.

JANUARY 13th. Calm the greateſt part of the night and this morning, at eleven o'clock came on a freſh breeze from the N. W. which continued till ſeven in the evening, paſſed by the Iſlands about five, ſaw the highland about Gombroon bearing E. N. E. latitude obſerved 26. 23. North.

JANUARY 14th. Light airs and variable, paſſed the Iſlands of Keſh and Belior, latitude 26. 24. North.

JANUARY 15th. The wind at N. E. and blew freſh, coming further to the eaſtward. In the morning we ran in towards the Iſland of Kiſmis, near a place called Daag ul Kumuck, came to an anchor after ten o'clock, calm, latitude obſerved 26. 36. North. Two people who came in a ſmall boat from the ſhore, confirmed to us the report that Mahomed Raſhid Sheick of Julfa, had taken one of the company's veſſels, going from Bombay to Baſſora, and ſold the crew for ſlaves.

JANUARY 16th. At nine in the morning weighed anchor, and went round the Weſt end of the Iſland of Kiſmis, called by the Perſians Touly, and came to an anchor again off Ras, (cape) Baſſido

 which

which by an obſervation lays in the latitude of 26. 41. North. The people ſaid that between twenty and thirty years ago, there had been a ſettlement of Europeans here; we ſaw the remains of a church, and the ruins of a large town that had been built with bricks dried in the ſun. At two in the afternoon weighed with a light breeze at S. W. and the tide in our favor, the channel between Kiſmis and the main at this place is about four miles wide. At Baſſido we got a freſh ſupply of water, which was taken out of a reſervoir that had been built by the Europeans, paved all through with a white ſtone: at this time there were not ten houſes inhabited in this large ruined town, all which were Perſians.

JANUARY 17th. Came to an anchor at half paſt ten at night, and did not weigh again until ſix the next morning. About ſeven we arrived amongſt a parcel of Iſlands covered with trees moſt of which ſtood two feet or more in the water; the Iſlands are divided by very narrow channels, ſo that the trees almoſt meet and form a kind of arbour. About eleven o'clock it being calm and the tide making againſt us we again came to an anchor; the people whilſt they were cutting wood ſaw three large wild hogs and ſome pigs. At half after eleven in the forenoon it began to rain hard, and to blow freſh from the N. W. which continued till two

o'clock;

o'clock; then cleared up and being a ſettled wind we weighed. Until five in the evening we continued ſailing through a narrow channel, amongſt the Iſlands, and then came in ſight of a fort and ruined town called Leſt; it is ſituated under a hill on the Iſland of Kiſmis; the fort bore about S. W. of us at ſun ſet; near this place we were obliged to wait for our boat that Sheick Aly the Nakhuda had ſent on ſhore for ſome wood and fiſh for his own private uſe. About four in the afternoon made ſail again and paſſed by a galivat belonging to Sheick Mahomed Miny of Ormus. No obſervation on account of the hazineſs of the weather.

JANUARY 18th. At night calm, the tide making againſt us, came to an anchor. In the morning at day break weighed with a light breeze to the S. W. Gombroon bearing about N. N. E. In the afternoon the wind freſhened and came further to the weſtward, blowing very hard from five to ſeven in the afternoon, and then it began to moderate, no obſervation. Cape Salamet on the Iſland of Mahomed Salamet bore at ſun ſet, about S. W.

JANUARY 19th. The wind continued to blow exceedingly hard from the weſtward, which made the veſſel both roll and pitch very much: at half after eight the ſail was broken by the violence of the

 wind;

wind; unbent it, and bent a ſmaller. The middle of the night being exceedingly cloudy, the Arabs for want of a compaſs did not know which way to ſteer; they had been going above two hours due North when we diſcovered it, and put them right; they had been deceived by a change of wind and bad ſteerage. In the morning came on a freſh breeze to the N. W. which continued till ten in the morning, it then grew calm, and afterwards ſprung up from the ſame quarter: latitude obſerved 26. 29. North, diſtant from the ſhore about five leagues, high mountain near Cape Mozandan. The town of Lema bore of us at noon S. W. by W. the afternoon little wind and cloudy all round.

JANUARY 20th. About one o'clock this morning came on a freſh breeze at North, which increaſed with a following ſea: about four o'clock in the morning our tiller rope broke, and it was with much difficulty we prevented the veſſel from flying to. Three men got overboard to mend the rudder, in the mean time the veſſel rolled ſo much that there was danger of her filling, or at leaſt of her carrying away the maſt; in about an hour the rudder being repaired, we got under ſail again, the weather being dark and ſqually; the Nakhuda or Captain, and the Malleem, or pilot, thought it unſafe to continue any longer at ſea, and therefore put in at Khorfa-

kan,

kan, which is ſituated on the coaſt of Arabia, in a ſmall bay open only to the Eaſtward; on the S.E. ſide of the bay is a harbour for boats, where we lay in ſmooth water, and entirely ſheltered from all winds, it rained exceedingly hard the whole day, and conſequently wetted our baggage and beds. At ſeven in the evening the clouds diſperſed, and it began to clear up.

JANUARY 21ſt. About two o'clock this morning came on a very hard ſquall of wind and rain, with violent thunder and lightning from the N. W. which continued near an hour; had we been at ſea we muſt inevitably have foundered in leſs than five minutes, for although we lay in a place ſurrounded with hills, the violence of the wind ſhook the veſſel as if ſhe had been ſtruck by a broadſide from a large ſhip. The wind being at S. E. we could not move, therefore at day-break we went on ſhore to the top of the hills to take a view of the country, and dry our cloaths, &c. on a ſmall hill to the Weſtward of this little harbour, is a ruined caſtle, formerly built by Nadir Shah, to cover a magazine for his ſtores, when his troops beſieged Muſkat. The town which is ſituated at the bottom of the Bay was once conſiderable, but at preſent con-

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ſiſts only of two or three houſes built of ſtone, the reſt are fiſhermens huts.

JANUARY 22d. At nine at night the wind being ſet in at N. W. and the weather fair, we weighed anchor from Khorfakan. When out at ſea we ſaw ſome lightning from the S. E. At eleven at night the wind began to freſhen from the N. W. and at one blew in hard ſqualls; at ſeven in the morning our tiller rope broke, which had not been mended above a quarter of an hour when a hard ſquall came, and the rudder itſelf was broken: as it was impoſſible to mend it without unhanging it, ſome of the people went overboard for that purpoſe, and in half an hour brought the remainder of the rudder on board; but it was full four hours before it was repaired: in the mean time, as we could not lay the veſſel to, we lowered down the ſail, and the veſſel lay with her broadſide to the wind; we expected ſhe would fill every moment, for the wind blew very hard in ſqualls, with a ſhort and heavy ſea, when the rudder was mended, ſix of our people got into the ſea to fix it. About twelve o'clock, with much difficulty we got her head round and ſcudded before the wind; juſt after we had repaired the rudder, we ſaw Cape Shenes, bearing

weſt,

weſt, latitude obſerved 24. 34. N. We had no obſervation at Khorfakan, but from its bearing and diſtance this day at noon; I ſhould ſuppoſe it lays in latitude 25. 13. North.

January 23d. At ten laſt night, in ſhifting the ſail to haul in for the land, our tiller-rope broke again, and the veſſel flew up in the wind. We tried when the rope was mended to bring her head round again to our proper courſe, but in vain, and therefore ſteered as much as we could to the weſtward. Our people were ſo much harraſſed by the fatigues of the preceding day and night, that they could not be prevailed upon to exert themſelves; but on the contrary were ſulky and quarrelſome, upbraiding us with being the authors of their diſtreſſes, in obliging them to leave Khorfakan before the weather was ſettled. Our veſſel being very lively ſhipped no ſea, although the wind and ſea encreaſed conſiderably. At day-break in the morning, paſſed between the iſlands of Sawady, and the town of Sohar on the Main: the wind being much more moderate, at five in the morning we came to an anchor at Muſcat. The entrance of the outer port where we anchored is defended by ſeveral batteries even with the water's edge; but the

Arabs

Arabs with ſome reaſon depend moſt upon two forts, erected upon hills, commanding the mouth of the inner harbour, which are called Marany and Jillaly; not being acquainted with the rules of this place, we narrowly eſcaped getting into a ſcrape; for as no boats are allowed to go on ſhore after ſun-ſet from the outer port, the guards ſtationed in the two above-mentioned forts fired at us; but fortunately they were bad markſmen, only one of their ſhot ſtruck the boat. The Succeſs, Grab, from Bombay, which was bound to Baſſora with diſpatches, was lying in the inner harbour; we went to the houſe of Narraindoſs, the Engliſh broker, which although not a very elegant habitation appeared to us, who had been expoſed to violent wind and inceſſant rain for eight and forty hours, a perfect palace.

JANUARY 24th. In the morning Captain Twyſs came and told us he ſhould ſail for Baſſora the next day. He had ſix Engliſh gentlemen paſſengers with him that were going over the deſert, and alſo Monſieur Borel de Bourg, the French officer, who had been plundered and wounded by the Arabs on the deſert. Monſieur Borel wiſhing to hear the lateſt news from Europe, and perhaps alſo being deſirous of con-

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verſing with a perſon who had lately travelled the ſame route as himſelf, came and ſpent the evening with me at the broker's houſe. I told him that I was no ſtranger to what had befallen him on the deſert, and eaſily prevailed on him to give me an account of his adventures.

The particulars of the buſineſs upon which he was ſent, he of courſe concealed, but in general terms he informed me that ſoon after the engagement between the two fleets near Breſt, in July 1778; Monſieur de Sartine, his friend and patron ordered him to carry diſpatches over land to India. I think he ſaid he left Marſeilles on the third of Auguſt; but that owing to the ſtupidity of the Captain of his veſſel, and to contrary winds, he did not arrive at Latichea before the end of the month; from thence he immediately proceeded to Aleppo. The French Conſul could not collect more than twenty-five guards to attend him acroſs the deſert; with which, on the fourteenth of September, he began his journey. He met with no ſerious moleſtation, until he was within fifteen days of Baſſora, when early one morning he perceived himſelf followed by a party of about thirty Arabs mounted on camels, who ſoon overtook him.

As they approached, he by his interpreter desired they would please to advance, or halt, or move to the right or left of him, for he chose to travel by himself; they answered that they should not interfere with him, and went forwards at a brisk rate. Mr. Borel's people then suspected them of some hostile design, and told him to be upon his guard. In the evening, between four and five o'clock, he observed them halted and drawn up as if to oppose him; and in a few minutes three other parties, consisting also of about thirty each appeared in sight, in opposite directions, seemingly inclined to surround him: from these appearances very naturally concluding their intentions to be hostile, and consequently his situation desperate, like a gallant man he thought only of selling his life as dearly as possible; he was armed with a double barrelled fuzee, a pair of pistols, and a sabre. As he kept marching on, he first fell in with the party in front, who fired at him, which he returned as soon as he came within musket shot of them, and killed the Sheick; when he had discharged his fire arms, before he could load them again, several of the Arabs broke in from different sides, and cut him down. Stunned with the violence of the blow, he knew nothing

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that paſſed afterwards, until about an hour before day-break the next morning, when he found himſelf entirely naked on the ground, a quantity of blood near him, and part of the fleſh of the ſide of his head hanging upon his cheek. In a few minutes he recollected what had paſſed, but as he could feel no fracture or contuſion in the ſkull, he began to think his wounds were not mortal: this however was only a tranſient gleam of hope, for it immediately occurred to him, that without clothes or even food, he was likely to ſuffer a much more painful death. The firſt objects that ſtruck him when he began to look about him were thoſe who had been killed on both ſides in the action; but at the diſtance of a few hundred yards, he ſoon afterwards perceived a great number of Arabs ſeated round a large fire: theſe he naturally ſuppoſed were his enemies; nevertheleſs he determined to go to them, in hopes, either to prevail on them to ſave his life, or elſe to provoke them to put an immediate end to his miſeries. Whilſt he was thinking in what manner without the aſſiſtance of language he ſhould be able to excite their compaſſion, and to ſoften their reſentment againſt him for the death of their companions, which theſe people he had heard ſeldom forgive: it oc-

curred to him, that they paid great reſpect to age; and alſo that they ſeldom deſtroy thoſe who ſupplicate mercy; from whence he concluded, that if he could throw himſelf under the protection of the oldeſt perſon amongſt them, he might probably be ſaved. In order to approach them unperceived, he crept towards them upon his hands and knees; and when arrived within a few paces of their circle, having ſingled out one who had the moſt venerable appearance, he ruſhed forwards and ſpringing over the head of one of the circle, he threw himſelf into the arms of him, whom he had ſelected for a protector. The whole party were at firſt extremely aſtoniſhed, not having the leaſt notion of his being alive; but when their ſurprize ſubſided, a debate aroſe whether or not they ſhould allow him to live. One of them who had probably loſt a friend or relation, drew his ſword in a great rage, and was going to put him to death, but his protector interpoſed, ſtood up with great zeal in his defence, and would not ſuffer him to be injured; in conſequence of which, his adverſary immediately mounted his camel, and with a few followers went away. When this conteſt was over the Sheick, for ſo he happened to be, perceiving Monſieur Borel entirely without clothes,

clothes, presented him with his abba or outer cloak, invited him to approach the fire, and gave him coffee and a pipe, which an Arab when he is not on the march, has always prepared. The people finding Monsieur Borel did not understand Arabic enquired for his interpreter, who was found asleep and slightly wounded.

The first demand the Arabs made was for his money and jewels, which they observed Europeans always have in great abundance, but which are concealed in private drawers, that none excepting themselves can discover. He assured them these opinions were erroneous with respect to him, for that he was not a rich merchant, but only a young soldier of fortune, employed to carry orders from his government in Europe to their settlements in India: but that if they would convey him to Graine, a place near Bassora on the sea coast; on their arrival there, and on the receipt of his papers, he would engage to pay them two hundred chequins, about one hundred pounds sterling. After a few minutes consultation with each other they acceded to his proposals, returned him his oldest Arabian dress, and during the rest of his journey treated him with tolerable kindness and attention.

After Mr. Borel's arrival at Graine, he eaſily prevailed on an Armenian to advance him the money to fulfil his engagements with the Arabs; and alſo to ſend the French reſident at Baſſora an account of what had befallen him on the deſert, deſiring to be ſupplied with money and other neceſſaries to enable him to proceed to Pondicherry. His letter very fortunately for us fell into the hands of the Engliſh reſident at Baſſora, who having heard of our rupture with France, was convinced he muſt be charged with public diſpatches of conſequence, and therefore determined to arreſt him. Every generous mind will lament the neceſſity there was of adding to the diſtreſſes of this ſpirited and unfortunate youth; but the lives of thouſands, and perhaps the ſafety of our ſettlements in India, depended upon his being intercepted; but to prevent his being treated with any rigour, or ſuffering any indignity, Mr. Abraham the ſecond in council of the factory, was employed to ſeize him.

The town of Graine which is ſituated about 70 miles S. E. of Baſſora, is governed by an Arab Sheick who is very much attached to us; but Mr. Abraham knew it would be very difficult to prevail on him to violate the rights of hoſpitality to a ſtranger, and without the Sheick's connivance, the execution of the project would have been ab-

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ſolutely impracticable: the better to conceal his deſign, Mr. Abraham went down to Graine at night in a country boat, accompanied by the Captain of one of our ſhips then lying at Baſſora, and immeditately proceeded to the Sheick's houſe, to whom he communicated his buſineſs. The Arab at firſt violently oppoſed the meaſure; but being mollified by preſents, and alſo aſſured that Mr. Borel ſhould not receive any perſonal injury, he at laſt acquieſced. When Mr. Abraham knocked at the door, Mr. Borel was retired to reſt, but he inſtantly got up to admit him, thinking he was a perſon ſent from the French reſident with an anſwer to his letter. As ſoon as he diſcovered his miſtake he attempted to defend himſelf, but he was inſtantly overpowered and conveyed to the ſea ſide, where he was put on board the ſhip that had been ſent from Baſſora, and was juſt then come to an anchor off the place. He had two pacquets, one for Pondicherry, and another for Mauritius, which were found; but Monſieur Borel obſerved to me, that they miſſed the key of the cypher in which the diſpatches were written, by neglecting to ſearch the lining of his cloaths. It was perhaps a fortunate circumſtance for Monſieur Borel that he was taken priſoner by us, for his wound through unſkilful management, and the want of proper remedies

medies was grown extremely bad; nor is it improbable that if he had attempted to proceed in a country boat, the only conveyance that he could have got at Graine; his wound would have occasioned his death long before the boat could have arrived at any French ſettlements in India. I made uſe of theſe arguments to conſole him for his misfortunes, but zeal for his country, the natural enthuſiaſm of his diſpoſition, and the hopes which had been given him of promotion, had he executed his commiſſion, made him deaf to every thing I could ſay to conſole him. Diſappointed but not diſcouraged by his former ſufferings, he was then on his way to Baſſora to proceed over the great deſert a ſecond time; which I was afterwards informed, he paſſed with every aſſiſtance he could receive from the gentlemen of our factory.

JANUARY 26th. Remained at Muſcat, the wind blowing directly into the mouth of the harbour.

JANUARY 26th. Went on board the dingy at day-light, and began warping out. At eleven in the forenoon got out of the harbour and ſailed. The wind began to freſhen in the afternoon, and there being appearances of its blowing ſtill harder, at three in the afternoon, we put about and returned into

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the harbour of Muſcat, came to an anchor off the fort of Merany. At ſeven in the evening another dingy that had ſailed at the ſame time put back in a very ſhattered condition. The Grab that ſailed in the morning went away before the wind to Baſſora.

JANUARY 27th. The wind continued to blow exceedingly hard all laſt night from the S. E. Although we lay with two anchors under the cover of a hill in ſmooth water, we drove very much in the night. At day-break layed a grappling to the weſtward, and warped towards the harbour. At eight in the morning the wind came round to the weſtward, and blew very hard, with great clouds of duſt that came off the land; the veſſels that were going out, and alſo all the fiſhing boats immediately put back into the harbour; as our people ſeemed apprehenſive of a hard gale; by their advice we alſo returned into the inner harbour, where we found three dingies waiting for a ſettled wind, to proceed to the Malabar coaſt with us; remained in the harbour, as the fort would not let us paſs out in the evening.

JANUARY 28th. At day-break in the morning began to warp out of the harbour, and at eleven o'clock got under ſail, but firſt went on board an Engliſh ſnow

 bound

bound to Aboufhaer, commanded by Captain Johnfon who gave us a quadrant, mine having been injured by a fall; he alfo kindly offered us every other affiftance in his power. The wind at N. W. at fun-fet Cape Curiat bearing S. W. by S. diftant about five leagues. In the evening the wind began to flacken very much.

JANUARY 29th. Calm all night. Came on a light breeze this morning which lafted from feven to ten; calm all the reft of the day and the weather very hazy. Latitude obferved, 23. 15. North.

JANUARY 30th. Calm the greateft part of the night. At four in the morning came on a light breeze to the N. W. At day-light faw a large veffel to the S. S. E. ftanding to the weftward. Latitude obferved 23. 9. N. Calm fince noon, and a fwell from the N. W.

JANUARY 31ft. Very little wind all night. At three in the morning a light breeze fprung up to the Southward; in the afternoon it came round to the Weftward, and at laft fettled in the N. W. Latitude obferved 22. 24.

FEBRUARY 1ft. Light wind all day from the N. W. and very fine weather. Latitude obferved 22. 15.

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FEBRUARY 2d. Calm part of laſt night, afterwards a breeze from the N. W. continued till five in the morning. Calm till twelve o'clock. Latitude obſerved 21. 52. North. At two in the afternoon a breeze ſprung up, which continued to freſhen.

FEBRUARY 3d. Laſt night at eleven o'clock the wind came to N. E. and freſhened to a very fine breeze. At two in the morning paſſed by two ſmall dingies, ſuppoſed to be bound to Muſcat, but did not hail them. Latitude 21. 19.

FEBRUARY 4th. A freſh breeze from the N. W. and fair weather. At nine ſaw a veſſel to the N. E. quarter, ſtanding to the Southward; we hauled our wind as ſoon as ſhe appeared in ſight, ſuppoſing her to be an enemy. She paſſed within a quarter of a mile to leeward of us, without taking any other notice, but hoiſting her colours, which were Moors. Latitude obſerved 20. 30. North.

FEBRUARY 5th. Light winds at N. N. E. Latitude obſerved 19. 50. North.

FEBRUARY 6th. A fine freſh breeze at N. E. and very fair weather. At three in the afternoon layed to and ſounded, found forty-ſix fathoms; ſaw

ſeveral ſnakes, the ſigns of being near the Malabar coaſt. Latitude obſerved 19. 22.

FEBRUARY 7th. Moſt part of the day very little wind, and ſometimes calm. About two o'clock in the afternoon the ſea wind ſprung up and freſhened to a fine breeze; hove to and ſounded, found forty-three fathoms: latitude obſerved 19. 15. Courſe E. ½ N.

FEBRUARY 8th. A fine freſh breeze at N. W. for the moſt part of the day. Saw the land at day light in the morning, and at four in the afternoon came to an anchor in Bombay harbour, found there the Aſia man of war, Capt. Vandeput; the Royal Admiral and Morſe Indiamen, and ſeveral other country ſhips. The Aſia and the two Indiamen arrived from England the day before us. At ſix in the evening went on ſhore to the governor's houſe and delivered him the pacquets.

Mr. Hornby the governor of Bombay, during our ſtay on that Iſland, entertained us very politely at his houſe, and ordered a veſſel to be got ready to convey us to Anjengo. On the 14th of February we embarked on board the Terrible bomb-ketch, Capt. Baine, and arrived at Anjengo in nine days; a voyage at this ſeaſon of the year on

the

the Malabar coaſt is always agreeable, but was rendered particularly ſo to us, from the good humour, and good ſenſe of our captain.

Having hired a palanquin and proper people to carry it, on the 24th in the evening I ſet out from Anjengo for Pallomcotta, and arrived there in three days, the diſtance is ninety one Engliſh miles.

	Miles.
From Anjengo to Bringon —	21
Colachie — — —	20
Cotata — — —	15
The gate or barrier between the dominions of the king of Travancore and the nabob of Arcot	7
Pannagoodie — — —	5
Naganachara — — — —	8
Pallamcotta — — —	15
Total	91

My friend Captain Burrington, the commandant of that garriſon, detained me one day whilſt he ſent orders to have palanquin bearers ready for me, at all the different ſtages on the road to Madras. After leaving Palamcotta, the firſt day I reached Madura, diſtant about ninety-ſix miles. The ſecond day arrived at Tritchonoply ninety two miles:

miles: here I halted half a day having reaſon to believe the palanquin bearers were not ſtationed. The third day in the afternoon left Tritchonoply and arrived at Cuddalore in the evening of the fourth, one hundred and eight miles: remained here a few hours, and then proceeded through Pondicherry to Madras, one hundred and fourteen miles, where I arrived in the afternoon of the ſixth day. The whole diſtance is eſtimated at four hundred and fourteen miles, which was performed in five days and a quarter, excluſive of ſtopping and a few unavoidable delays on the road. The travelling pace in a palanquin is on an average about four miles an hour.

It has been invariably my rule throughout this journal to acknowledge the attention I met with on the way; but without proceeding in the ſame manner after my arrival at Pallamcotta, and from thence to Madras; I ſhall only in general obſerve that travellers in India are always received with a liberal hoſpitality unknown in any other country. Not that I affect to ſay there is more urbanity in India, than in Europe; but as moſt of the Europeans in that country are known to each other; and there are no houſes of public entertainment excepting at the preſidencies; it of courſe becomes a matter of reciprocal convenience, that the chiefs at the differ-

ent

ent out ſettlements, and the commandants of the fortified towns ſhould keep a kind of open houſe, for all perſons who are generally known, or properly introduced to them. How kindly and handſomely ſtrangers are received on their firſt arrival in India is a fact of public notoriety, and general admiration. The letters of introduction which perſons carry out from England, not only procure them temporary civilities, but alſo obtain for the ladies in particular ſuch a reception as almoſt ſurpaſſes belief. From the inſtant of their arrival, they are conſidered as belonging to the family to which they have been introduced, and from which they are never again ſeparated, but by death or marriage.

It is hardly neceſſary to obſerve, that more attention has been paid to the matter, than to the ſtile of this journal, particularly in that part of it which relates to the deſert. But the obſervations were put down on the evening of the day on which they were made, and with no other view than to ſerve as memoranda; in which form perhaps they may be moſt acceptable to the generality of readers, as being the ideas of the country, as they occurred on the ſpot. It may be thought that too much has been ſaid of wind and weather, which are ſeldom much noticed in books of travels by land.

When

When travelling in a cloſe carriage, it certainly does not ſignify what quarter the wind comes from, or whether it blows hot or cold: but this is not the caſe with a traveller expoſed to the open air, with no other covering than the cloaths he wears. A perſon going acroſs the deſert will probably be glad to know what weather he is likely to meet with on his journey, that he may equip himſelf properly; and neither be encumbered with any thing ſuperfluous, nor neglect taking any thing really neceſſary.

A PARTICULAR conſideration of the character of the Arabs and a more minute deſcription of the deſert than is contained in this journal are kept as materials for a larger work. Nevertheleſs for the convenience of travellers who in the mean time may paſs that way, and for whoſe uſe this journal was originally publiſhed; it may be proper to give a general idea of the deſert and its inhabitants, by means of which the traveller will readily become acquainted with the principal difficulties he has to encounter; and alſo with the diſpoſitions of the perſons with whom he is about to aſſociate.

THE great Deſert of Arabia has often been repreſented as an immenſe ſpace of barren ſand, which never has nor ever can be made to produce any herb

herb or vegetable whatever; where consequently not only men could never reside, but where no animal of any kind could possibly exist. The journal itself confutes that opinion; in which the attentive reader will perceive that frequent mention is made of the ruins of buildings, which in all probability are only small remains of what once existed on those spots. Before the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope, when the productions of the East were necessarily brought part of the way to Europe by land, particularly in the remote ages of antiquity; the great desert was doubtless one of the principal channels of eastern commerce. At that time I suppose those buildings to have been erected, nor can I attribute the existence of Palmyra itself, which is situated in a most barren part of the desert, to any other cause. Water the great principal of both animal and vegetable life is not wanting. By means of those ravines or water courses which communicate with the Euphrates, and also from the wells which are interspersed throughout the desert; water enough might be obtained, not only for domestic uses, but also to answer the purposes of husbandry. The soil in general is by no means so barren as not to be capable of cultivation; there are but few spots that would not yield to the persevering hand of industry.

 Should

Should the Chriſtian powers hereafter drive the Turks out of Europe, and compel them to retreat beyond the bounds of Aſia Minor; it is by no means improbable that towns and villages would then riſe up on what is now called the deſert; and the remains of thoſe barren ſpots again become, what I believe them to have formerly been, only intermediate commons; like Saliſbury plain, or Bagſhot heath.

In deſcribing the Arabs, a perſon ought to enter into very nice diſcriminations, for every tribe has its peculiar character; but as it is intended on this occaſion to vindicate them only from the common imputation of being faithleſs ſavages; I ſhall content myſelf for the preſent with giving a ſlight ſketch of the moſt ſtriking features of a deſert Arab's mind. He like the reſt of his fellow creatures is much governed by ſelf-love; but this paſſion is ſo tempered and qualified in him, by the liberal dictates of honour and hoſpitality; and the mild and benevolent influence of pity, and compaſſion; as to preſerve his uncultivated mind from ſinking into abſolute ſelfiſhneſs: theſe ſentiments and paſſions correct even the violence of his religion's prejudices, and render him equally humane to a conquered enemy, whether a Chriſtian, or a Mahomedan. Many circumſtances mentioned in

the

the preceding journal prove that this is a faithful outline of their character, and very different from the idea generally entertained of these people. The Bedouins who attacked us near Tiaba could certainly have cut us to pieces and made themselves masters of the whole of our property, but they preferred obtaining from us a moderate tribute for the merchandize belonging to Khwaja Rubens, and the Bagdad caravan. Their right to exact a tribute from passengers may perhaps be disputed; but it must be remembered that they are lords of the desert, and will be paid a duty for all merchandize that passes through their territories. Some caravans it is true are powerful enough to resist, and refuse to comply with their demands; and so do the armies of Prussia, Austria, and France force their way through the dominions of the smaller states of Germany: but a Frenchman must pay custom-house duties for his goods in Germany; as must a German satisfy the demands of government in France.

Our caravan was attacked a second time, but we were too powerful for our adversaries, in consequence of which a treaty took place, and fourteen of their people joined our party; nor during the remainder of our journey did the least mark of ill-

humour or refentment break out between our people and their new affociates. It is true, that the Arabs who plundered Mr. Borel acted apparently in the firft inftance towards him with unwarrantable violence; but I am convinced they would not have gone fuch lengths had they found him difpofed to treat and to pay them, as we did, a moderate tribute. In the engagement Mr. Borel killed feveral of their comrades; neverthelefs when he recovered and implored their mercy, no man could have fhewn more honour or fpirit than the old Sheick did in his defence, which could only have proceeded from the moft laudable and difinterefted motives; for it is evident from their fituation, that Mr. Borel had no opportunity of promifing him any reward for his protection. To thefe might be added many other inftances of equal honour and humanity fhewn by the Arabs to Europeans, collected even from the accounts of thofe who complain moft of ill treatment from them; but I flatter myfelf that thofe I have already mentioned, together with the remarkable inftances of liberality in the old Sheick when I fettled accounts with him; are fufficient teftimonies of their poffeffing fentiments and paffions that place them much above the rank of unfeeling barbarians.

That ſome unfortunate travellers may have ſuffered from their violence and rapacity, I do not diſpute; there are thieves and aſſaſſins in all parts of the inhabited globe; and into whoſe hands ſtrangers, not properly introduced, are moſt likely to fall: but in moſt of the accounts I have read complaining of the Arabs, I have found great reaſon to believe that the ſufferings of the Europeans origiginated in their own imprudence, or elſe in the treachery of their Interpreters. The books of travels in Europe are filled with melancholy ſtories of hair-breadth eſcapes from robbery and murder, and conſtant lamentations of inſults and impoſitions. Why then are we to villify the characters of all the Arabs, and repreſent them as deſtitute of principle, becauſe a perſon unacquainted with their language, or their manners and cuſtoms, has experienced the ſame ill treatment from the worſt of their countrymen, as he would have been liable to meet with in any country in Europe? With equal propriety might a foreigner accuſe all Engliſh men of being cheats, and highwaymen; becauſe one of his countrymen has been impoſed on at an inn; or robbed on the road between Dover and London. To ſum up all that need be ſaid on this ſubject for the preſent in a few words. An European who wiſhes to paſs the deſert with eaſe and ſafety,

muſt lay aſide all his own prejudices, and not ridicule thoſe of the Arabs. Before he ſets out he ſhould have all their claims clearly aſcertained—behave to them on the way with kindneſs without familiarity—and in ſettling accounts at the end of the journey, be liberally juſt to them, without profuſion.

THE END.

SUPPLEMENT

CONTAINING

LISTS OF THE STAGES

IN THE

DIFFERENT ROUTS

FROM

ENGLAND TO BASSORA,

TAKEN

Either from the JOURNALS and OBSERVATIONS

Of the AUTHOR,

OR

Collected by him from the BEST AUTHORITIES.

IT has been obſerved that a perſon going to *India* acroſs the great deſert, had better embark at ſome of the parts of *Italy* or *France*, and from thence proceed to *Aleppo*, either by *Latichea* or *Alexandretta*: but that a diſpatch ſhould be ſent through *Vienna* and *Conſtantinople*, directly to

 Bag-

*Bagdad**; or elſe by *Aleppo*, to *Baſſora*. Could I ſuppoſe this advice would invariably be followed, it would be unneceſſary to take any further notice of the route by *Conſtantinople*, which in this caſe would be frequented only by couriers: but as curioſity may induce travellers who can command their time, to paſs that way; I have collected with all poſſible care, correct liſts of the different ſtages through *France*, the *Netherlands*, and *Holland* to *Vienna*; and ſo on by *Conſtantinople*, to *Aleppo*, and from thence by various routes to *Baſſora*.

* A merchant who long reſided at *Conſtantinople* and traded from thence to *Bagdad*, ſays; that when at the former, he frequently received expreſſes from the latter city in twelve or fourteen days. The diſtance is eſtimated at ſix hundred and fifty Engliſh miles. He is not acquainted with the name of each particular ſtage; but he ſays the couriers paſs through *Tokut* or *Tokaiah*, where there is a manufacture of porcelaine; and *Geumiſh Hanar*, near the ſilver mines, and ſo by *Diarbekir* to *Bagdad*.

POSTS from CALAIS through STRASBURG to VIENNA.

Names of Places	Posts
Calais	
to	
Ardres	2
La Recousse	1
ST. OMER	2
Aire	2
Lillers	1½
Bethune	1½
Souchet	2
ARRAS	1½
Herville	2
Bapaume	1
Sailly en *Aurouaise*	1
Peronne	1½
Beauvoir	2
St. Quentin	1½
Cerisy	1½
La Fere	1½
Laon	2½
Corbeny	2½
Berry au bac	1
REIMS	2
Petites loges	2½
Chalons	2½
Chepi	1
La Chaussée	1
St. Amand	1
Vitry Le Francais	1
Longchamp	2½
St. Dizier	1½
Saaldrupt	1½
Bar le duc	1½
Ligny	2
St. Aubin	1
Void	1½
Layes	1½
Carried over	56½

Names of Places	Posts
Brought over	56½
Toul	1½
Velaine	1½
NANCY	1½
Domballe	1½
Luneville	1½
Benaminil	1½
Blamont	2
Hening	2
Saarburg	1
Hommartin	1
Phalzburg	1
Sauerne	1½
Wiltheim	2
Stiffeim	1
STRASBOURG	1½
French Posts	77
Kehl	1
Bischoffsheim	1
Stolhoffen	1
Radstatt	1
Erlinghen	1
Durlach	1
Pforzheim	1½
Entzwangen	1
Constadt	1½
Blockinhen	1½
Gosppinghen	1
Geislinghen	1
Westersteiten	1
ULM	1
Gunzburg	1½
Susmarshausen	1½
AUGSBURG	1½
Eversburg	1½
Carried over	21

POSTS from CALAIS, &c.

Names of Places	Posts
Brought over	21
Schwalhausen —	1½
MUNICH —	1½
Anzing —	1½
Haag —	1½
Humpsing —	1½
Alten Oetirg —	1½
Mackel —	1½
Braunau —	1
Altheim —	1
Ried —	1½
Unterhaag —	1
Lambach —	1½
Vells —	1
LINTZ —	2
Ens —	1½
Screnberg —	1
Amstallen —	1½
Kemmelbach —	1
Molk —	1½
St. Polten —	1½
Perschling —	1
Sichartskirchen —	1
Burkersdorf —	1
VIENNA —	1
German Posts	53½

Note, The French Post on an average is five English miles. The German Post on an average is nearly twelve English miles.

POSTS from OSTENDE by COLOGNE to VIENNA.

Ostende to	
BRUGES —	2
Alter —	2
GHENT —	2
Quadregt —	1
Aloft —	1½
Carried over	8½

Names of Places	Posts
Brought over	7
Asche —	1½
BRUSSELS —	1½
Louvain —	3
Tirlemont —	2
St. Trond —	2
Tongem —	1½
MAESTRICHT —	1
AIX —	2
Juliers —	1½
Bergen —	1
COLOGNE —	1½
	27

Note, At *Cologne* the route from *Helveotsluys*, and that from *Ostende* meet.

POSTS from HELVEOTSLUYS through FRANKFORT and RATISBON to VIENNA.

Helveotsluys to	Posts	Hours
ROTTERDAM —		12¾
Dort —		4½
Gorcum —		4
Lovestein Castle —		½
Bommel, on the river Waal		3½
Nimeguen —	2	
CLEVES —	2	
Santen —	2	
Hockstrat —	2	
Nuys —	1	
Dormain —	1	
COLOGNE —	1	
Bonn —	2	
Remagen —	1¼	
Andernach —	1½	
Coblentz —	1	
Nassau —	1½	
Nasteden —	1	
Carried over	19¼	

POSTS from *Helveotsluys*, &c.

Names of Places	Posts
Brought over	19¼
**Schwalbach*	1
MAYENCE	1½
Hadersheim	1
†FRANKFORT *on the* MAINE	1
HANAU	1¾
Dettingen	1
Aschaffenburg	1
Besenbach	1¼
Rolvibrun	1
Eselbach	1
Romliug	1
WURTZBURG	1
Kitzingen	1½
Possenheim	1½
Langenfeld	1
Emskirchen	1
Farabach	1¼
NURENBURGH	1
Teucht	1
Poschbaur	1
Teining	1
Tagwang	1
Hohen Schambach	1
§RATISBON	1
Pfader	1½
Straubingen	1½
Platling	2
Vilshofen	2
Passau	2
Eissenbein	1
Enzenkirchen	1
Carried over	57

* Or from *Schwalbach* to *Wisbaden* 1 post; to *Hadersheim* 1¼; to *Frankfort* 1 post.

† In going during the summer season from *Frankfort* towards the *Netherlands* or *Holland*; it is very pleasant to pass by water to the place of destination.

§ It is also in summer a very pleasant voyage down the *Danube* from *Ratisbon* to *Vienna*,

Names of Places	Posts
Brought over	57
Beyerbach	1
Efferding	1½
Lintz	1½
Ens	1½
Stremberg	1
Amstatten	1½
Kemmelbach	1
Moelk	1½
St. Polten	1½
Perschling	1
Sichartskirchen	1
Burkersdorf	1
VIENNA	1
	72½

POSTS from FRANKFORT to AUGSBURG.

Frankfort to	
Hanau	1
Dettingen	1
Aschaffenbourg	1
Obenburgh	1
Miltenbourg	1
Hundheim	1
Bischofsheim	1
Mergantheim	1
Blaufelden	1½
Creilsheim	1½
Dinkespull	1
Oetineen	1½
Wending	1½
Donawert	1½
Meittengen	1½
AUGSBURG	1½
	19½

ROUT from FRANCKFORT and AUGSBURG to INSPRUCK through TRENT to VENICE.

Names of Places	Posts
*AUGSBURG	
to Schwabmuchen	1½
to *Bucklor*	1
to Kaufbeyren	1
to *Staten*	1
to Fuessen	1
to *Hayderwang*	1
to *Lermus*	1
to *Nazareith*	1
to *Payervis*	1
to INSPRUCK	1
to *Schonberg*	1
to *Stenach*	1
to *Brenner*	1
to *Storzingen*	1
to *Mittewald*	1
to Brixen	1
to *Colman*	1
to *Teutschen*	1
to Bolzano	1
to *Branzol*	1
to *Neumarkel*	1
to *St. Micheli*	1
to Trenta	1
to *Pergini*	1
to *Borgo*	2
to *Primola*	2
to *Bassano*	2
to *Castel Franco*	2½
to *Treviso*	1½
to *Maestri*	1½
to VENICE	1½
	35½

* There is another route from *Augsburg* to *Fuessen*, viz. *Hurlach* 1½ posts; *Schwabdissen* 1 post; *Schæbbruck* 1 post; *Saumeister* 1 post; *Fuessen* 1 post.

POSTS from VIENNA to CONSTANTINOPLE by the Way of BELGRADE.

Names of Places	Posts
Hochan	1
Wimpassing	1
Gross Hoffein	1
Vendenburg	1
Warasdorff	1
Guntz	1
Stein Am Anger	1
Kormont	1½
Szala Egeszegh	2
Kabot	1½
Gross Kanisa	1½
Ibaros	1
Bresnitz	1
Babosca	1½
Istvandi	1½
Gross Szigeth	1
Saint Laurent	1
Funff Kirchen	1
Siklos	1½
Baranyawar	1½
Laskafeld	1
Esseg	1
Vera	1
Vukovar	1
Novasella	1
Patsch	1½
Kereskitscha	1
Gloschau	1
Peterwardien	2
Carlowitz	1
Peeska	1
Panosoxe	2
Semlin	2
	41

Note, Semlin is 82 German miles from *Vienna*, and the last station in the German dominions going to *Belgrade*.

SUPPLEMENT.

POSTS from VIENNA, &c.

	Distance per Hours
From *Semlin* cross the *Danube* to	
Belgrade —	
Kroska or *Isaroik*	5
Kolar —	4
Hassan Basha Palanka	6
Batischina —	7
Jagodina —	6
Mora va Hisar —	4
Razna —	6
Alexintza —	4
Nissa, *on the river Nissowa*	6
Mustafa Pasha —	8
Sarquoi —	4
Saribrode —	6
Sophia, *on the river Bagona*	6
Jegnikan —	5
Kliman —	7
Kisbisar —	6
Tzapar Bazageek	6
Philipopoli, *on the river Marizza* —	6
Papuzli —	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Quyali —	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Usum-tsiova —	3
Hermenli —	5
Mustafa Pasha	4
Hebibchey —	3
Adrianople, *on the river Tungia Orta* and *Marizza* —	7
Apsa —	4
Eskibaba —	6
Burguse —	4
Karesteran —	4
Schourli —	6
Kynicklu —	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Silibria —	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Buyuk Chickmagee	6
Kutchuk Chickmagee	3
CONSTANTINOPLE	3
	$176\frac{1}{2}$

Note, An hour's travelling is estimated a. three English miles.

ROUT from CONSTANTINOPLE to ALEPPO.

Names of Places	Order of Posts	Distance by Hours
CONSTANTINOPLE across the *Hellespont* to *Scuder* or *Scutari* —	—	
Scuder or *Chrysopolis* to *Gheibize* —	1	8
Between this post & the next you ferry across the Gulph of *Nicomedia* to *Hersek* —	2	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Chiniflik —	3	6
Leuke —	4	10
Sekut —	5	7
Eski Shaher —	6	10
Saidee Khazze	7	9
Cosruff Basha —	8	13
Ballawadin —	9	6
Issaklee —	10	7
Akshehar —	11	10
Il Ghaun —	12	18
Conia —	13	21
Karabcenar —	14	10
Eraglie, olim *Heraclea*	15	12
Urucissa —	16	10
Adena —	17	16
Kat Callah —	18	12
Byass —	19	9
Bylan —	20	7
Antioch by *Salkin*	21	10
ALEPPO —	22	36
		Hrs. $260\frac{1}{2}$

N. B. On account of the troubles in the road from *Adena* to *Antioch*; the thieves having driven the Turkish governor from *Byass* and established themselves in it; Mr. Baldwin was forced to take the other road, as in his journal, by *Caradash*; but upon his return he had an escort from the thieves, and took the road as above.

ABSTRACT of the foregoing JOURNAL.

ROUT from ALEPPO to BASSORA, directly across the great desert.

Names of Places	Hours	Names of Places	Hours
ALEPPO to		Brought over	125
Neyreb —	3	*Haglet ul Havran* —	10
Haglier —	9	——— ———	6
Ashuck Mashook	7¼	——— ———	9
——— ———	11	*Ruined Village* —	9
——— ———	8	——— ———	16
——— ———	9	*Rabaly* —	3¾
——— ———	8	——— ———	10
——— ———	7½	——— ———	10
——— ———	8	*Hidia* —	5
——— ———	9	*Birket Rahama* —	4¾
Juab Kunnum, or *Ain-ul-Horoof*	8½	*Alathe*, two small forts	5
——— ———	8	——— ———	9¾
——— ———	9½	——— ———	9¼
——— ———	9¼	——— ———	8¼
——— ———	9	——— ———	9½
		——— ———	9
		——— ———	9
		——— ———	9
		——— ———	10
		Coebda —	3
		Zebeer —	3½
		BASSORA —	3½
Carried over	125	Total Hours	227¾

A JOURNEY over the little desert of ARABIA from ALEPPO to BAGDAD and SEMMEVA by the EUPHRATES to BASSORA.

Names of Places	Hours		Computed English miles	Remarks
To *Spheree* —	5	0	11 2/8	Fine clear rivulets of water.
Remained encamped at *Spheree*.				
Hagla — —	4	12	9 7/8	Well of bad water.
Has Meserr —	8	30	19 4/8	No water.
Anda Veaugul —	9	15	20 6/8	No water.
Elga, or *Tchieltiora* —	10	30	23 5/8	No water.

JOURNEY, &c. by the *Euphrates* to BASSORA.

Names of Places	Hours		Computed English miles	Remarks
Near *Ain il Kom* or *Koum* —	7	30	16 7/8	Bad water.
At *Ain ul Koum* —	1	30	3 3/8	Good water.
The plain of *Geboul Bushier* —	8	30	19 4/8	No water.
Hopra Fadle —	10	0	22 4/8	No water.
Ferrasche —	6	30	14 5/8	Two wells of bad water.
Geboul Busshier —	8	45	19 5/8	No water.
Dickaynia —	8	0	18	Several wells of bad water.
The desert on the rout to *Routgaugh*	3	0	6 6/8	No water.
Routgaugh, or *Rutgar* —	8	0	18	No water.
Quoerlastep —	8	30	19 4/8	Little rain water in the rocks.
Gelta — —	9	15	20 6/8	No water.
Anna — —	9	0	20 2/8	Euphrates.
Passed from the northward of the town to the south —	1	30	3 3/8	Along the Banks of Euphrates.
Encamped.				
Remained encamped.				
Crossed the *Euphrates* to				Encamped along the Euphrates.
Der Mahomet —	5	0	11 2/8	
El Maface —	7	30	16 7/8	Ditto.
From *Maface* left the caravan and with 13 camels travelled expeditiously to				
Ther or *Thur* —	9	45	31 5/8	No water.
To the northward of *Bagdad* salt plain	9	20	30 2/8	No Water.
Desert from the salt plain in the night	6	0	19 4/8	Well water.
Over a level desert and the beaten track of the salt caravan	8	30	27 5/8	Passed two wells of tolerable water.

JOURNEY, &c. by the *Euphrates* to BASSORA.

Names of Places	Hours	Computed English miles	Remarks
Same track in the night	3 10	11 3/8	Suppose there is water, but being night could not see.
over A very level desert and the beaten track of the salt caravans to *Bagdad* —	9 30	30 7/8	Several wells and reservoirs of good water. River *Tigris*.

ROUTE from BAGDAD to SEMMEVA with mules or jack asses each carrying about one hundred and fifty pounds weight.

Names of Places	Miles	Hours
*BAGDAD to *Azad* — — —	13	4 30
Berraness — — —	6	2 0
Secundera — — —	7½	2 30
Mahavil — — —	12	4 0
Hillah — — —	11	3 45
Emmam Ali — — —	30	10 0
Ramahie, with horses loaded —	20	6 0
Semmeva — — —	52	16 0

	Miles
The distance from *Aleppo* to *Bagdad* —	466
Bagdad to *Semeva* —	151
Semmeva to *Bassora* by water	257
Total from *Aleppo* to *Bassora*	874

* From *Bagdad* there are two passages to *Bassora*, one by the *Tigris*, the other by the *Euphrates*: that by the former is described in the following extract from the journal of Capt. Elliot Elliets; of the latter many accounts have been already given.

"On the 15th of April we took a bark to pass down the *Tigris* from *Bagdad* to *Bassora*. This river below *Bagdad* has two arms, one of which runs along the side of the ancient *Chaldea*, and the other towards the point of *Mesopotamia*; and they both form a large island, which is traversed by several small canals. When we came to the place where the two arms part, we saw what we took to be ruins of an ancient town, near three miles in compass. The walls that remain are so large, that six coaches may pass along them abreast at the same time. They are made of bricks burnt in the fire, each of which was ten feet square and three thick. We took that branch of the *Tigris* which runs along the side of *Chaldea*, for fear of falling into the hands of the Arabs; who at that time were at war with the Bashaw of *Bagdad*. We were

ten

SUPPLEMENT.

THE following voyage up the EUPHRATES from BASSORA to HILLA and the itinerary from thence to BAGDAD, MOSUL, and DIARBEKIR, to ALEPPO, is extracted from the voyage of Mr. Ives.

APRIL 27th, 8 o'clock in the morning embarked, and by means of a fair wind and the assistance of the tide went 75 miles. 28th, passed *Corna* or *Quorne*, a town situated at the conflux of the two rivers *Tigris* and *Euphrates*. 29th, tracked to *Mousurat*, an Arab village. 30th, passed several Arab villages, particularly *Moochalban*. May 1, passed *Nawashe* a town, and *Cota* an Arab village. Tracked 2d *Arsjia*, an Arab village tracked with difficulty. 3d, tracked to *Graybim* an Arab town; from hence the branch of a large river communicates with the *Tigris*. 4th, tracked; 5th, tracked; 6th, tracked to the town of *Semmeva*. 7th, tracked with difficulty. 8th, tracked near *Monzaradab*. 9th, tracked to the town of *Sembleeu*. 10th, tracked to *Dewana* in the government of *Haseu*. 11th, halted at *Dewana* to visit the governor. 12, afternoon, tracked and passed the fort of *Monoly*. 13th, pleasant country tracked. 14th, tracked; 15th, tracked. 16th, tracked, and passed the village *Assea*, *Issadea*, *Venahaara*, *Zada*, *Chili*, *Dulab*, and at two o'clock in the afternoon arrived at *Hilla**. As the *Euphrates* at this place turns to the N. W. tra-

ten days in passing from *Bagdad* to *Bassora*, and lay every night in the bark, and there dressed our victuals. When we came to any village we sent our people to purchase provisions, which they bought very cheap. The names of the villages by the side of this river are *Amurat*, where there is a fort contructed of burnt bricks; *Satarat*, with a fort of the same kind; *Mansury*, a large town; *Mazar*, *Gazar*, and *Corno*. This last place stands on the point at the confluence of the *Euphrates*, and *Tigris*. It has three small castles, or forts, one of which stands upon the point, and is the strongest of the three; the second is on the side of *Chaldea*; and the third on that of *Arabia*. The maps call this cit, *Korna*, under which denomination it is best known."

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W. travellers muſt go by land to *Bagdad*, which ſtands on the *Tigris* at the diſtance of about 50 miles from *Hilla* N. W.

May 17th accompanied by a ſmall caravan and five Turkiſh horſemen at five P. M. left *Hilla*, and in five hours arrived at *Mahoul Kauri*. 18th, *Serai* at *Eſcanderah* 15 miles, which being dirty proceeded to *Horta*, about eight miles further. 19th, march about 9 miles to *Azaup Serai*, a little beyond which the city of *Bagdad* is ſeen.

			Miles
From *Baſſora* to *Corna*	—	—	75
to *Cota*	—	—	69
to *Semmeva*	—	—	147
to *Lembloon*	—	—	65
to *Aſſea*	—	—	31
to *Hilla*	—	—	52
to *Bagdad*	—	—	50
			489

JOURNEY from BAGDAD to ALEPPO as performed by Mr. Ives and his party.

June 19th.

	Hours
Left *Bagdad* ſeven in the evening, and arrived at *Yankjah* in	7
and from thence proceeded to *Dokebalah* —	1
Kann Muſabah — — — —	6
Chiba Harpſie river — — — —	4
Dely abas couprie Kaun — — — —	4
Kuſcadawire, mountains — — —	2
Narin, river — — — — —	3
Karatapa — — — — —	5
Aſke couprie — — — — —	$7\frac{1}{2}$
The *Courmaratida* mountains in ſight to the right.	
Danzcourmatu — — — — —	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Tawook — — — — —	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Gergoot — — — — —	9
Alton couprie — — — — —	9
Yengee Kaun — — — — —	6
Arvele — — — — —	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Zarp, river — — — — —	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Zaave — — — — —	1
Camaliſk Gawerkoe — — — —	5
Nineveh, a ſmall village, reputed to be the ruins of ancient *Nineveh* — — — — —	$5\frac{1}{2}$

Moſul

SUPPLEMENT.

JOURNEY, &c. by the *Euphrates* to BASSORA.

Names of Places	Hours	Computed English miles	Remarks
Same track in the night	3 10	11⅜	Suppose there is water, but being night could not see.
over { A very level desert and the beaten track of the salt caravans to *Bagdad* —	9 30	30⅞	Several wells and reservoirs of good water. River *Tigris*.

ROUTE from BAGDAD to SEMMEVA with mules or jack asses each carrying about one hundred and fifty pounds weight.

Names of Places	Miles	Hours
*BAGDAD to *Azad* — — —	13	4 30
Berranass — — —	6	2 0
Secundera — — —	7½	2 30
Mahavil — — —	12	4 0
Hillah — — —	11	3 45
Emmam Ali — — —	30	10 0
Ramahie, with horses loaded —	20	6 0
Semmeva — — —	52	16 0

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The distance from *Aleppo* to *Bagdad* —	466
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			Miles
From *Bassora* to *Corna*	—	—	75
to *Cota*	—	—	69
to *Semmeva*	—	—	147
to *Lembloon*	—	—	65
to *Assea*	—	—	31
to *Hilla*	—	—	52
to *Bagdad*	—	—	50
			489

JOURNEY from BAGDAD to ALEPPO as performed by Mr. Ives and his party.

June 19th.

	Hours
Left *Bagdad* seven in the evening, and arrived at *Yankjah* in	7
and from thence proceeded to *Dokebalah* —	1
Kann Musabah — — — —	6
Chiba Harpsie river — — — —	4
Dely abas couprie Kaun — — — —	4
Kuscadawire, mountains — — —	2
Narin, river — — — — —	3
Karatapa — — — — —	5
Aske couprie — — — — —	$7\frac{1}{2}$
The *Courmaratida* mountains in sight to the right.	
Danzcourmatu — — — — —	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Tawook — — — — —	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Gergoot — — — — —	9
Alton couprie — — — — —	9
Yengee Kaun — — — — —	6
Arvele — — — — —	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Zarp, river — — — — —	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Zaave — — — — —	1
Camalisk Gawerkoe — — — —	5
Nineveh, a small village, reputed to be the ruins of ancient *Nineveh* — — — — —	$5\frac{1}{2}$

Mosul

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SUPPLEMENT.

A TABLE of the Distance between each of the capital Cities and Towns in the Route from BASSORA to LATICHEA.

				Miles
From *Bassora*	as before	to *Bagdad*	—	489
Bagdad	—	to *Gergoot*	—	167
Gergoot	—	to *Arveta*	—	54
Arveta	—	to *Mosul*	—	49
Mosul	—	to *Nisibin*	—	103
Nisibin	—	to *Arin*	—	26
Arin	—	to *Diarbekir*	—	58
Diarbekir	—	to *Bir*	—	147
Bir	—	to *Aleppo*	—	94
Aleppo	—	to *Latichea*	—	102
			Total of Miles	1289

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SUPPLEMENT.

	Hours
†*Mosul* — — — — —	6
Stayed six days at *Mosul*.	
Baduie, river — — — — —	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Esche Mosul — — — — —	5

Tal-

† "The caravans which pass by *Mosul*, which is the road we took, make a shorter cut over the Desert of *Tagut*, to the westward of the *Tigris*. We had the Bashaw of Bagdad's pass, which we found of very great service, for it procured us a very extraordinary respect wherever we came. Besides it exempted us from the visits of the custom-house people. Those who have no pass, had best gratify the custom-house officers with four or five Mamoudies, to prevent the opening of their baggage, though they have no right to demand any thing. The Turks are such lovers of money, that there is no danger in attempting to corrupt them in their office, for you may make your bargain in as plain terms as you please.

From *Bagdad* you may get to *Thourkat* or *Karkut* in eight days, and from thence to *Mosul* in four. If your stomach is a little nice, you had best provide yourself with eatables at *Bagdad*, for the bread and rice that you may meet with on the road may not possibly be white. However, the best bread is to be had at *Bassora*; and as for butter, you will meet with none after you leave that place till you come to *Aleppo*. As for our parts, we found the bread upon the road pretty good. As you travel along, you will meet with villages on the road to lodge in from stage to stage. But for the apartments they will be of little use, except to defend you from the weather; for there is no furniture, and it will be a rarity to find so much as a little stool. As for other conveniences, you are not to expect them. However, you may probably travel all along this road, as we did, by ourselves, without the least interruption or incivility.

At *Karkut*, which is a strong city, it is usual to rest a day or two and replenish your panniers; that is you must lay in provisions for four days at least, which is the time you will spend in going to *Mousul*, as mentioned above. As for wine, you must take care to supply yourself at *Bassora*, and that for a month or more. At *Bagdad* you may probably replenish your store as well as at *Karkut*; and at *Mousul* you must purchase provisions of all kinds for six days; as also at *Cajenisar* or *Mardin* for *Orfar*, that is for six or eight days; and afterwards at that place for *Aleppo*, which is five days more; and among the Christians you will always meet with wine or brandy.

The place where you are most likely to be detained is *Mousul*, because you must either wait for a caravan, or hire a convoy; which last you may do at four rupees a man. If you will listen to them they will tell you, that it will be unsafe to travel without twenty or thirty of these people for a guard; but I am persuaded there is no such danger of robbers as they pretend. However there are caravans which set out from this place once in every ten or fourteen days, unless in the depth of winter, and they take a convoy, the money to pay which is levied by the Caravan Bashi, upon all the people of the caravan, generally in proportion to the goods which each person carries with him, but sometimes according to the number of beasts, and your share will consequently be but a trifle.

The usual time of travelling from *Mousul* to *Madan* or *Mardin* is eight days, and from *Mardin* to *Orfa* seven days. The first six days of the journey is over a desert almost without inhabitants, and therefore your fare will be good or bad according to the quality of the provisions you brought with you. Three days after you leave the *Tigris* the water begins to be brackish, and therefore it behoves you to take care to supply yourself with that which is good in time.

The caravan makes a halt at *Nisibin*, the next town to *Mousul*, where it is visited by the custom-house officers. But a gentleman that travels only with his baggage is under

SUPPLEMENT.

		Hours
Talmash, hill: the Sanjalk mountain on the left	—	5
Sefaga	— — — — —	8
Demir Rapee (a stream)	— — —	10
Geraza	— — — — —	6½
Nisibin	— — — — —	7½
(From hence dispatched a letter to the Consul at *Aleppo,* to be delivered in seven days).		
Serka Kaun (a river)	— — — —	1½
Arin	— — — — —	8
Merdin	— — — — —	2
Arrived at *Diarbekir* 21st July, two o'Clock afternoon, where we stayed	— — — — —	25
Inupu	— — — — —	24
Menisserah	— — — — —	12½
N. B. *Urfa* the capital of a Bashaw five hours S. W.		
From *Menisserah* to *Pesillekew* a valley, and the neighbouring village *Hanwah*	— — — —	3
Cortocour, near a stream	— — —	12
Bir, or *Birjoup,* on the eastern banks of the *Euphrates,* a large town	— — — — —	5
Mazar (passed this village)	— — —	3
Encamped in a valley	— — — —	1½
(From whence we dispatched another letter to *Aleppo,* to be delivered in 24 hours).		
Saguera (a town and river)	— — —	4½
(Here we received a letter from the Consul, at *Aleppo*).		
Caravansarah	— — — —	8
(From whence we abruptly left the Bashaw and proceeded to *Aleppo*).		

under no necessity of stopping on that account, for he may proceed directly for *Cojenissar*, or *Cojasar*, which is a day's journey and a half farther. *Mardin* is a large town, about four or five miles out of the road, but it is worth seeing; and, which is a greater inducement, there is good wine to be had there, to serve you on the road to *Orfa*, which is five or six days journey more; and there likewise you will meet with people to make up a sufficient caravan for the same road."

Vide Journal of Capt. Elliot Elliot.

A TABLE

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Observations on the Passage to India Through Egypt

yea: 1785

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